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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Text' of Tripartite Committee Report on Lebanon

JN2108104389 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Aug 89 pp 2, 3

["Text" of the report submitted to the Arab heads of state on 14 August by the heads of states represented in the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon]

[Text] Excellency brother,

We are honored to submit to Your Excellency the text of the report we have prepared on the tasks undertaken by the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, which was established under the resolution adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in Casablanca from 23-26 May 1989 concerning the Lebanese crisis.

The report contains certain details and documents which explain more precisely what appears in the communique which was issued by our foreign ministers on 31 July 1989.

We also attach for your information the text of the national accord plan we have prepared as a basis for our moves, and later for the deliberations of the Lebanese parliamentarians in their dialogue, which we believed and still believe to be the ideal means to begin resolving the Lebanese crisis in a complete and comprehensive manner in accordance with what was agreed upon by the Casablanca conference.

It is our hope that the information and documents, which we have the honor to place in your hands, will help crystallize an Arab opinion and enable our nation, God willing, to perform its duty toward our Lebanese brothers and to help them ovecome their ordeal.

Kindly, excellency brother, accept our highest esteem.

[Dated] 14 August 1989

Signed: Hassan II, King of Morocco
Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King of Saudi Arabia
Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Report of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon Addressed to the Arab Leaders

I. Preamble

Immediately after the resolution by the extroardinary Arab summit conference, which was held in Casablanca from 23-26 May 1989, to form our committee and to give it the wide and full powers to achieve the objectives it set to resolve the Lebanese crisis, we held consultation and coordination meetings among ourselves to discuss the implementation of the summit resolution.

Acting on the principle that our committee is not a follow-up or a mediation committee, but a higher committee entrusted with the task of reviving the Lebanese state with all of its constitutional and security institutions in order to preserve Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Arabism; and in the course of our efforts to achieve this objective, we held contacts and consultations covering Syria, Iraq, the permament member states of the UN Security Council, the European Economic Community, the secretary general of the United Nations, and the Vatican. Our envoy in Lebanon also held contacts with the various Lebanese parties.

We held meetings and contacts within this framework. Intensive meetings were also held among our ministers for foreign affairs upon our guidance. During these meetings, all aspects of the Lebanese crisis were discussed and the political plans and solutions that were presented were also reviewed. The talks that were held in the past whether among the Lebanese or the other parties to find a solution to the crisis as well as the report presented by the six-member committee to the emergency Arab summit—the report that includes a detailed review of the contacts held by the six-member committee with the concerned parties—were also reviewed during these meetings.

We carefully reviewed the deliberations that took place among the Arab leaders in the emergency summit as well as the resolution they issued. We studied the Lebanese crisis with a responsible spirit and reached a comprehensive and complete concept of all the dimensions of the crisis and the bases of the sought solution. Our committee was fully aware that the still unsolved 14-year-old Lebanese crisis constitutes a source of great danger to the Arab world because of the increasing division and fragmentation possibilities in Lebanon.

In order to prevent the continuous differences among the Lebanese from reaching what we all fear, the committee saw that—in the absence of the possibility of reconciliation among the various parties—its only option is to contribute with its view to resolve the crisis. This view includes proposals that constitute a compromise to be presented to the parliamentarians through which the required balance among the different desires and objectives would be achieved. The committee indeed prepared a draft document on national reconciliation that was in harmony with what came in the Casablanca summit resolution and which would provide the necessary balance to implement the summit resolution.

In light of this view, the committee presented the document as an integral whole. This trend formed the foundation on which the committee built its contacts and consultations with the various concerned and international parties.

The committee's political efforts were accompanied by its efforts to provide the best security circumstances to achieve reconciliation and peace in Lebanon. In accordance with this, the proposed document on reconciliation became the basis of the committee's action and the essence of its contacts.

Our objective was to present the document to the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies for discussion in preparation to achieve the objectives endorsed by the Casablanca summit to resolve the Lebanese crisis. At the top of these objectives is the achievement of reconciliation among the Lebanese—reconciliation based on achieving constitutional reforms; holding presidential elections; forming a national reconciliation government to safeguard Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arab identity; spreading the Lebanese Government authority over the entire Lebanese soil to protect its security and stability with its own forces in accordance with the emergency Casablanca summit; revitalizing the Lebanese state with all its constitutional institutions; working to liberate Lebanon from the Israeli occupation; implementing Resolution 425 and all international resolutions calling for the removal of the Israeli occupation; and ensuring the evacuation of the other non-Arab forces.

II. Foundations of Committee's Action

At the first meeting we held in Rabat on 4 June 1989, the following comprehensive action plan was adopted:

1. On the security level we called for an immediate cessation to all acts of violence and for avoiding all measures that exacerbate divisions among the Lebanese out of our conviction that achieving any progress in our political moves depends on providing the appropriate security circumstances.

2. On the political level we were careful to draw up a balanced, just, and comprehensive perspective for resolving the Lebanese crisis in the form of a document for national accord that includes the following elements:

a. General principles for reforms and means to revive the Lebanese constitutional establishments.

b. Imposing the Lebanese state's sovereignty over the entire Lebanese soil within its own forces.

c. Liberating Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

d. The future of the Syrian-Lebanese relations.

3. To implement our action plan, it was decided to entrust our foreign ministers and our committee's envoy in Lebanon to hold the required contacts on various Lebanese, Arab, and international levels to gain support and backing for our action plan.

III. Contacts With Lebanese Sides

Our envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi paid a number of visits to Lebanon during which he met with His Excellency Dr Salim al-Huss, His Excellency General Michel 'Awn, His Excellency Husayn al-Husayni, parliament deputies, and leaders of parties, political and military organizations, and other establishments. Our committee's envoy to Lebanon also met with a number of Lebanese notables, deputies, and key figures outside Lebanon.

In these contacts, all Lebanese parties welcomed the Casablanca summit resolution and announced support for the higher Arab committee and voiced readiness to cooperate with it and facilitate its mission.

From these contacts and consultations we have concluded the following:

1. Ordinary Lebanese citizens, regardless of their religious or political affiliations, aspire for an end to the ordeal which afflicted their country. They aspire for the restoration of peace to their country and look forward to coexistence with all their brothers within a unified homeland under a stable democratic system and one government and within the framework of the Arab nation to which they belong and by whose objectives they abide.

2. All the Lebanese demand a speedy and unconditional end to the Israeli occupation of part of their territory. Some Lebanese continue to valiantly resist this occupation with a spirit that deserves salutation and appreciation by the Arab nation and by all peace- and freedom-loving peoples.

3. The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese agrees on the principle of political reform. It also agrees on the principle of reviving the constitutional institutions, especially the election of the president of the republic. However, lack of confidence among the parties and the failure of the many previous reconciliation efforts have made each party insist on securing its own primary objectives as a precondition for agreeing to implement the other provisions of the Lebanese national accord.

4. The overwhelming majority in Lebanon supports the establishment of firm, close fraternal ties with Syria on the basis of equal interests and mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and right to exercise its national authority over its entire territory.

5. The odd voices which call for stands and actions contrary to those referred to in the previous paragraphs only represent very small groups, which are prompted by personal interests which have nothing to do with the public interest or the Lebanese people's aspirations.

6. Regarding the specific practical proposals which have been made by the committee's envoy at this stage as a prelude toward implementing the Casablanca summit resolution, we note the following:

a. The long delay in reopening the crossing points between the eastern part of the Lebanese capital and the neighboring areas.

b. The naval siege on the East Beirut ports was not lifted because the nationalist parties and forces were insisting on creating a mechanism for searching all boats and imposing a ban on those which carry arms and ammunitions, while the other side was demanding the lifting of the siege without any condition or restriction.

c. General Michel 'Awn and his supporters refused to allow Beirut International Airport in West Beirut to be reopened without first lifting the naval siege on the ports in the eastern region.

7. It was not possible in such a situation to establish the cease-fire, reopen the crossing points, or lift the siege on all ports as stipulated in the Arab summit resolution. Thus, it was not possible to overcome the security problem and move to the political field.

8. However, the contacts have proven that the Casablanca summit resolution and the committee's proposals enjoy very wide acceptance and support among all Lebanese circles.

9. In particular, the majority of the members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies agrees on holding a meeting outside Lebanon prior to the convocation of their chamber in its official premises in Beirut. However, all the deputies residing in the eastern region affirm the need to lift the siege first before calling a meeting of the deputies inside or outside Lebanon.

The foreign ministers of our committee held three rounds of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials. These talks dealt with the political and security aspects of the Lebanese crisis.

Proceedings of First Visit to Damascus

Acting on our instructions, the foreign ministers of the committee met with President Hafiz al-Asad on Thursday, 8 June 1989. They outlined the tripartite committee's objectives and work plan and gave a full explanation of the committee's four principles. In explaining their view of the solution, the ministers expressed the tripartite committee's desire to secure Syria's help in achieving the desired solution by using its influence on the various Lebanese parties to make them seriously cooperate with the work plan, achieving a cease-fire, ending the siege, reopening the crossing points, and taking care of the Iranian presence in Lebanon. The results of the first visit were as follows:

—Regarding the committee's request for Syria's help to achieve a cease-fire, lift the sieges, and reopen the crossing points, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed Syria's readiness to help achieve a cease-fire and reopen the crossing points without any condition. On lifting the sieges, his excellency said this was conditional on creating a mechanism for this purpose.

—Regarding the national accord document, his excellency read it carefully, but made no major comments on it. He simply said that national accord is Lebanon's business. He repeated that more than once.

—On the part dealing with Syrian-Lebanese relations, his excellency discussed this subject with zeal and emphasis. He spoke in detail about the special relationship between Syria and Lebanon, the historic humanitarian ties between the two countries, and the common security links between them.

He concluded by expressing the belief that the paragraph in the document on Syrian-Lebanese relations has failed to underscore this special relationship. The ministers explained that the committee was eager to know Syria's position on this subject so it can make a proper assessment. They said the committee made Syria its starting point to find out from his excellency how to tackle this subject. The president was told that while the provisions on national accord were clear since they were based on ideas which the Lebanese themselves had agreed on in previous talks and were made available to the committee, the picture is different concerning the provisions on Syrian-Lebanese relations. The committee could not find any Lebanese side to talk to on this subject due the lack of a Lebanese government representing everyone. Therefore, the committee presented a general position through which it hoped it would learn Syria's thoughts on this subject prior to reaching the desired specific formula which it could then present to all the Lebanese sides. His excellency hesitated a great deal before giving Syria's opinion on this point. He insisted on the need to find out the Lebanese side's opinion on it. Upon the insistence of our ministers, his excellency asked that the subject be broached with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

During the ministers' meeting with Minister al-Shar', the Syrian brothers proposed the following formula for the issue of Syrian-Lebanese relations:

"Out of the pan-Arab ties, the strategic interests, and the unity of history and fate between Syria and Lebanon, the Lebanese Government—stemming from national reconciliation—and the Syrian Government, organize the special and distinguished relations between them within long-term agreements that embody what is between them and reinforce and guarantee their common interests in all political, security, economic and other fields."

With regard to the part on spreading the authority of the Lebanese Government over the entire Lebanese soil included in the proposed national reconciliation document, his excellency the president did not deal with this issue with any kind of sequence. He only said that the

document should not note the issue of the Syrian forces' withdrawal and, therefore, such a formula must be changed because Syria does not want to appear as a state occupying others' territory and that there is a side putting pressure on it to withdraw.

Accordingly, the Syrian brothers presented a proposed alternative formula on the issue of spreading sovereignty, the purport of which is the following:

"The objective of the Lebanese Government is to spread its authority over the entire Lebanese soil with its own forces represented in the first place by the internal security forces. And the Lebanese Government stemming from national reconciliation would reach an agreement with the Syrian Government to provide it with assistance in order to enable the Lebanese security forces to assume the security tasks carried out by the Syrian forces within a period of time to be agreed on by the two governments."

When the committee studied the two Syrian proposals on the issue of relations and spreading sovereignty, the following became clear:

With regard to relations, the Syrian brothers aim—from the formula they presented—at delaying the achievement of an agreement between the Syrian and Lebanese Governments that would define the nature of relations between the two countries until after the formation of a national reconciliation government. The same thing can be said on their proposal on spreading sovereignty.

It is noticed that the Syrians do not want the committee to play a role in the agreement. This trend is a departure from the view presented by the committee—the view aimed at dealing with the components of the reconciliation document as an integral and interlinked whole as this represents the best way to guarantee the achievement of a balanced solution to be agreed on by all the Lebanese.

As a result of this Syrian stand, the committee found itself facing a difficult and delicate equation. If it responds to the Syrian brothers this will affect negatively on the possibilities of Lebanese reconciliation. And if the committee insists on its view with regard to the spreading of the Lebanese Government's authority this will mean an inevitable clash with an opposing Syrian stand. Consequently, the ministers returned to their leaders for consultation on this issue in preparation for another attempt with Syria.

Proceedings of Second Visit to Damascus

Charged with another mission to Damascus, the ministers returned to the Syrian capital Sunday, 2 July 1989, carrying a letter to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad signed by us in the wake of the tripartite Oran summit that was convened on 27 June 1989. The second visit centered on an attempt to find a way out of the the crisis the committee had with Syria over the two points of (sovereignty) and (Syrian-Lebanese relations). The following came in our letter: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. **Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic**

Greetings:

We take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, formed according to a resolution of the Casablanca summit to solve the Lebanese crisis, met in Oran in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria on 27 June 1989 and deliberated on all aspects of the crisis and looked at the reports submitted by the foreign ministers of the member-states on the committee based on their Arab contacts. The committee also looked at Your Excellency's letter that was conveyed by Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Excellency President:

Our decision to consent to setting up and joining the committee was inspired by our profound concern for all that should promote supreme Arab interests and our confidence in your foresight as well as your assurances of full and constructive cooperation with the committee toward finding a definitive solution of the painful tragedy which the Lebanese people have endured and continue to endure, and that has negatively impacted not only Arab standing and credibility but the supreme Arab interests. In this context, Your Excellency had displayed Syria's preparedness to help the committee bring to a definitive end the Lebanese crisis within a maximum period of 6 months, and to, once for all, terminate the Lebanese crisis, which means that the committee has only so much time to complete its work. Accordingly, we sincerely trust to receive the hoped-for cooperation from all the parties concerned so that we may be able to arrive at the desired ends before the deadline, God willing. Without doubt, your cooperation in this regard will go a long way toward the realization of this objective.

In regard to what Faruq al-Shar' said concerning the letter he carried to us from Your Excellency with respect to guarantees that weapons will not reach the Lebanese parties, we would like to stress to Your Excellency that Iraq made a full, clear commitment before the committee that it will not make any arms deliveries. Besides, international parties have expressed their readiness to cooperate in halting arms deliveries to the Lebanese sides. It must be clear to Your Excellency that the real guarantee lies in the tripartite committee working energetically and promptly to make progress on the road to national conciliation, including the formation of the national government emanating from national accord, which also represents a surefire safety valve regarding the political future in Lebanon.

Your Excellency, as a first and basic step on the road to reach the desired solution, we decided to send the foreign ministers of our countries to inform you of all details of the concept which we reached during the tripartite

summit, held in Rabat on 1 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira—corresponding to 4 June 1989. In this regard, we cannot but thank Your Excellency for the precious time you allocated to the foreign ministers to hear our concept on the solution and for the positive spirit and understanding which Your Excellency showed toward the issues raised by the ministers.

On the other hand, the foreign ministers informed us of the results of the lengthy talks which they held with Your Excellency and officials in your government over the national reconciliation document which the Committee prepared to form the basis for the desired political solution, especially regarding the two paragraphs pertaining to the expansion of the Lebanese State's sovereignty over all Lebanese national soil and organizing the Lebanese-Syrian relations.

We have looked into this important subject in great detail and studied all of its aspects in light of the viewpoints expressed by Your Excellency and from the premise that reaching a balanced equation, on which the Lebanese national reconciliation can be based and built, is the principal formula to finding the desired solution to the Lebanese crisis, especially as this was Your Excellency's main argument during the Casablanca summit, on the basis of which the summit drew its concept of the solution to the Lebanese crisis in a manner that will preserve Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, Arabism, and distinguished relationship with sisterly Syria. We also found out that this constitutes the best basis and the most objective and efficient method to achieve the interests of all sides.

After great thinking about this sensitive point and exchanging opinions on it; based on our full appreciation of the sacrifices made by Syria for the sake of reaching the desired reconciliation; and out of our concern that relations between Syria and Lebanon be strong, fraternal, and distinguished in a manner that will achieve the interest of both countries, we present to Your Excellency the final concept which we reached on the subjects of spreading the Lebanese State's authority on all Lebanese national soil and organizing the Syrian-Lebanese relations. We became fully and deeply convinced that it constitutes the best and most balanced method to reach the desired equation. It also constitutes the most secure and entrenched way to maintain the interests of the two fraternal countries—Syria and Lebanon—and preserve their distinguished relations.

On that basis, the formula which we propose to Your Excellency regarding the second paragraph of the main principles contained in the national reconciliation document adopted by the committee is the following:

The objective of the Lebanese State is to extend its authority on all Lebanese national soil through its own forces, represented mainly in the internal security forces. On the basis of the brotherly relations tying Syria with Lebanon, the Syrian troops will thankfully help the forces of the Lebanese legitimacy spread the Lebanese State's authority in all areas where the Syrian troops are present during a period of time not greater than ( ) [unspecified timetable as published] during which the Syrian troops will concentrate in the al-Biqa' region.

Because an agreement has been reached between the Lebanese sides to establish the strong and capable state based on national accord, this calls for setting a comprehensive security plan for the whole of Lebanon. Its broad lines are characterized by the following:

1. Declaring the dissolution of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese parties and handing over their weapons to the state within a set time period.

2. Strengthening the internal security forces by:

a. Opening the door to all the Lebanese without exception to volunteering and starting to train them centrally and distributing them to the units in the provinces along with enrolling them in organized training courses.
b. Strengthening the security organs to control the entry and exit of people through the land, sea, and air borders.

3. Strengthening the Armed Forces:

a. The basic task of the Armed Forces is to defend the homeland and, when necessary, protect the general system when the danger becomes greater than the ability of the internal security forces alone to cope with it.
b. The Armed Forces will be used to support the internal security forces to keep peace under circumstances decided by the Council of Ministers.
c. The Armed Forces will be trained to shoulder their national responsibilities of confronting aggression (Israel).
d. When the internal security forces are ready to take on their security duties, the Armed Forces will return to their barracks.
e. The Armed Forces' intelligence will be reorganized to serve military purposes only.

4. Radically solving the Lebanese refugee problem by recognizing the right of every Lebanese refugee since 1975 to return to the place he fled from, setting legislations guaranteeing this right, and providing the appropriate means for reconstruction.

The formulation we are proposing to Your Excellency concerning paragraph four of the basic principles included in the national accord document is as follows: Lebanon, which is Arab in belonging and identity, is bound by honest and fraternal relations to all the Arab countries. There are distinguished relations between it and Syria gaining their strength from the roots of closeness, history, and joint strategic interests—a concept on

which coordination and cooperation between the two countries is based. This will be manifested by agreements between them where the need arises in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

Based upon this, since entrenching the security grounds provides the required atmosphere to strengthen these distinguished bonds, this dictates avoiding at all costs Lebanon becoming a source of threat to Syria's security and Syria to Lebanon's security. In light of this, Lebanon does not accept being a pass or station for any force, state, or organization harming its or Syria's security. Syria is concerned about Lebanon's security, independence, and sovereignty. Based on what has been said, a security agreement will be signed between the two governments—the Syrian and the Lebanese—under the auspices of the higher Arab tripartite committee.

An agreement will also be signed to define the bases, size, and period of the Syrian forces' presence in al-Biqa' between the two governments, the Syrian and the Lebanese, under the auspices of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon.

Your Excellency: Finally, this is the view of the committee to achieve the desired Lebanese national accord. To put this view into effect and proceeding from what had been agreed during the Rabat tripartite summit conference, the higher Arab tripartite committee will ask its representative Lakhdar Ibrahimi to hold the necessary contacts to arrange for a meeting of Lebanese parliamentarians outside Lebanon. Within this framework, the committee believes that as soon as the parliamentarians are invited, the fighting should stop, the siege should be lifted, and the crossing points should be reopened in order to prepare the right atmosphere to render this important step a success. The committee is also completely confident that Your Excellency's acceptance of the aforementioned two formulas concerning the issue of spreading Lebanese sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territory and the issue of organizing Syrian-Lebanese relations and your adoption of these relations as an indivisible part of the desired national accord will constitute a blessed step, which will be recorded in Arab history and will be remembered by future Syrian and Lebanese generations as one of the principal steps that ended a 14-year-old tragedy and restored hope for a bright and prosperous future characterized by stability, security, and peace.

Your Excellency, please accept our best regards and our wish that you will enjoy good health and that the Syrian people will enjoy happiness and continuous prosperity. Peace be upon you.

Commenting on the content of our message, his excellency referred to the paragraph on spreading the authority of the Lebanese state, explaining Syria's viewpoint on this subject. He also clearly supported the outlines of the comprehensive security plan and the national accord stated in the said paragraph, especially the dissolution of the militias and the solution to the problem of the displaced Lebanese. But he objected to defining the al-Biqa' area as a place for the Syrian forces to assemble during their assistance to the legitimate Lebanese forces to spread the authority of the Lebanese state on the places controlled by the Syrian forces. Instead, he proposed the following formula:

—The Syrian forces will help the legitimate Lebanese forces to spread the authority of Lebanese state on all the places controlled by the Syrian forces within a period not exceeding ( ) [timetable not specified as published] during which the Syrian forces will concentrate in areas to be agreed on between the Syrian and Lebanese governments.

Regarding the paragraph dealing with the organization of Lebanese-Syrian relations, the president's objection centered on the higher Arab tripartite committee's supervision of the security agreement to be signed by the Syrian and Lebanese governments as well as the agreement under which the Syrian forces' positions, size, and length of stay in al-Biqa' will be defined.

His excellency the president also pointed out that he prefers the whole paragraph proposed by the tripartite committee to be replaced by the paragraph which was proposed by the Syrian side during the first round of negotiations. His excellency the president stressed this point and mentioned it several times. He even said that the Syrians preferred the complete absence of this paragraph to its inclusion as proposed by the committee.

Proceedings of Third Visit to Damascus

It was necessary that a third round of negotiations be held with Damascus following consultations among ourselves to undo the knot represented in incompatibility between the Syrian understanding and the committee's interpetration of sovereignty and the Syrian-Lebanese relations as well as concerning the security aspect. Despite a promise by the Syrians to reopen the crossings, this has not materialized. Besides, the naval blockade continues, as do acts of violence. The committee's viewpoint has been and continues to be that cessation of hostilities and lifting of the sea blockade will pave the way for a meeting of Lebanese parliamentarians to prepare the reconciliation document and elect a president, ahead of the formation of a government of national accord—the best security and political guarantee.

On its third visit to Damascus on 9 Thul-Hijjah 1409 Hegira, the committee members took with them a verbal message from us to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, which said:

1. The committee leaders apprise Your Excellency's positive spirit and understanding on the issues brought up by the ministers.

2. Our leaders point to the assurances made by Your Excellency to the ministers concerning Syria's readiness to help render the committee's task a success—namely, working out a definitive solution to the Lebanese problem in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions within a 6-month time limit which is supposed to achieve the following:

—Political reforms.

—Reactivating constitutional bodies.

—etting up a government of national accord.

—Reasserting the state authority over the entire land of Lebanon. Ending Israeli occupation and the presense of Iranian forces in Lebanon.

—Consenting to President Hafiz al-Asad's viewpoint on leaving Syrian-Lebanese relations undefined and leaving the matter for the governments of the two countries, especially since the summit resolution stressed the need for a strong Lebanese state authority. And so when such a state is in place, it can enter into any agreement with sisterly Syria from a position of strength without this being part of the reconciliation document or involving a third party therein. In order that there be this strong, independent, and sovereign state, the summit conference emphasized the need for the Lebanese state sovereignty to be asserted throughout the Lebanese territory with a view to safeguarding the country's security and stability with its own forces and establishing the state authority and real powers and central institutions.

3. This means that the paragraph on the assertion of the Lebanese sovereignty will be as follows: The aim of the Lebanese state is to assert its authority over the whole of the country through its own forces represented principally by the Internal Security Forces. Given sisterly relations between Syria and Lebanon, the Syrian forces will help Lebanon's legitimate forces reassert the state authority everywhere Syrian forces are deployed within a maximum of 6 months from the start of the tripartite committee's work. The Syrian forces will, in the meantime, assemble and take up positions in the al-Biqa' region. Within the same framework, an agreement will be signed betweem the Syrian and Lebanese Governments and sponsored by the higher Arab tripartite committee to determine the size of the Syrian forces in al-Biqa' as well as their locations and the duration of their stay.

4. The committee leaders further emphasize that the absolute reassertion of the Lebanese state authrority over the entire Lebanese territory constitutes a key, unalterable principle, since there exists a unanimous Arab commitment to this premise—an undertaking that was made at the Casablanca summit and that was blessed by Your Excellency personally. The implementation of that program falls within the higher Arab committee's plan of action.

5. The committee leaders are looking forward to his excellency the president endorsing the second item of the national reconciliation document prepared by the committee on extending the Lebanese state authority to the entire national Lebanese soil in light of the introduced amendment, harmonious as it is with this spirit and with the text of the unanimously adopted Casablanca resolutions.

6. The tripartite committee leaders believe that their committee's continuous efforts and extensive consultations have been stretched to the limit.

7. After Your Excellency has endorsed the second item, which is expected and hoped for, the committee will invite the Lebanese parliamentarians to meet to formulate and adopt the national reconciliation document before presenting it to the Lebanese parliament for approval.

8. However, the committee will find itself before a dead end if the appropriate security climate—putting an end to the fighting and lifting the blockades—is not prepared before the meeting of the parliamentarians and in a way that enables the committee to perform its duty.

9. When the tripartite committee requests his excellency the president to endorse the final formula of the document, it proceeds from the full confidence that the committee leaders had expressed in Your Excellency's foresight and in your assertion of eagerness for full and constructive cooperation with the tripartite committee.

10. While the committee requests Your Excellency to achieve this move, it believes that its political vision serves the interests of both Syria and Lebanon. If, God forbid, this effort fails, we can only envisage harmful consequences to both Lebanon and Syria.

11. The committee's success in its task depends more than ever on your excellencey's stance toward this document, termination of fighting, and lifting of blockades. This will determine whether the committee can proceed with its efforts or stop making further ones.

After the ministers presented the verbal message, it appeared His Excellency President al-Asad did not want to discuss the subject any further and he referred it to His Excellency Minister Faruq al-Shar'. During the meeting, the Syrian minister said his country cannot accept the way in which the committee handled the issue of (relations) and added that their objections in the past centered on the idea of the committee supervising or patronizing the agreement between the the Syrian and Lebanese governments. Removing the entire paragraph on (relations) is not acceptable to them. His excellency called for adopting the proposed Syrian wording, which states as follows: "Stemming from the pan-Arab bonds, the strategic interests, and the unity of history and fate between Syria and Lebanon, the Lebanese Government, resulting from national reconciliation and the Syrian Government, shall

organize the special and distinguished relations within long-term agreements that embody and bolster their ties and guarantee their common interests in the various political, security, economic, and other fields."

Concerning the item on extending the authority, the Syrian brothers showed adherence to their old stance and their rejection of any reference to a time span during which the Lebanese security forces can take over the security tasks performed by the Syrian Army. They also rejected any reference to the idea of the Syrian forces assembling and taking up positions in the al-Biqa', as stated by the reconciliation paper.

In brief, the Syrian brothers continued on their stance toward the two aforementioned subjects—they wanted them to be discussed after the establishment of the national reconciliation government.

In the security aspect, they continued to reject lifting the blockade without the presence of a security committee entrusted with the task of inspecting ships.

Contacts With Iraq

The ministers made two visits to Baghdad during which they met with His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. During the first meeting with his excellency on 7 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira—corresponding to 10 June 1989—the ministers informed his excellency of the objectives of the tripartite committee and its working plan. The Iraqi president expressed his welcome of, and backing for the committee's efforts and his readiness to contribute toward rendering it a success. The committee ministers' talk with his excellency concentrated on the role which Iraq can contribute in the security aspect, particularly regarding the arms shipments which Iraq provides to Lebanese in the eastern area. The Iraqi president said that when an agreement is reached on a cease-fire and lifting of the sieges, Iraq will immediately stop the dispatch of military hardware. He also said that Iraq considers this commitment on its part natural because it gave its confidence to the tripartite committee and that it will not hesitate to provide anything which the committee will ask from it.

On the eve of the second visit made by the ministers to Baghdad on Monday, 30 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira—corresponding to 3 July 1989—Iraq issued a statement in which it pledged to stop supplying arms to the eastern sector of Beirut. We have charged the ministers with conveying a written message to his excellency. The message stated:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, President of the Republic of Iraq

Greetings. We are pleased to inform Your Excellency that the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, which was formed according to the Casablanca summit's resolution to resolve the Lebanese crisis, met in the city of Oran in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria on 24 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira—corresponding to 28 June 1989. It studied all aspects of the Lebanese crisis and was informed of all reports submitted by the foreign ministers of the committee's member states which were based on the Arab and international contacts they made, including the audience Your Excellency granted them in Baghdad on 7 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira—corresponding to 10 June 1989.

While we thank Your Excellency for giving much of your precious time to the foreign ministers to listen to our concept of the solution to the crisis and for the positive spirit and understanding that Your Excellency showed toward the issues raised by the ministers; and based on what the foreign ministers have previously conveyed to you about our interest in keeping you up to date with details of the moves made by the committee within the context of its efforts to find the comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis—we hope Your Excellency will have the time to receive the foreign ministers who will inform you of the developments in the Lebanese crisis and the steps implemented so far in the tripartite committee's working program.

During your reception of the foreign ministers in Baghdad, you thankfully pledged that when an agreement on a cease-fire and lifting of the sieges is reached, Iraq will immediately stop the shipment of military hardware. You have also considered this commitment on your part natural in view of the absolute confidence you showed toward the tripartite committee and the leaders of its member states.

While we praise this noble stand by Your Excellency and this positive and objective spirit, we are fully confident that fraternal Iraq under your wise leadership will do everything possible to render the committee's mission a success, cooperate with it, and fully adhere to the commitments which you made from the premise of the mutual trust between you and your brothers the leaders of the committee's member states.

Your Excellency Brother, please accept our warmest greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness for Your Excellency and for the continued progress and prosperity of the fraternal Iraqi people. Peace be upon you.

During the meeting, the Iraqi president said that Iraq does not only adhere immediately [to its commitments], but also calls on all brothers to help the Committee on the basis of the spirit of the Casablanca resolutions. The ministers expressed to his excellency their appreciation of the Iraqi position.

Contacts With France

France supported the efforts of the committee. French officials expressed their joy over the Arab leaders' interest in the subject of Lebanon to the required extent

and care. They added that it has become necessary to think about political reforms in Lebanon concerning the changes in Lebanese society, which call for reform in light of this development and under the shadow of democracy and justice among its citizens.

The French promised to contribute toward a cease-fire by holding contacts with the sides having close ties with France. His Excellency President Mitterrand gave instructions to his foreign minister to contact Gen 'Awn and the other sides to urge them to cooperate with the committee concerning what it issues.

Contacts With Vatican

Officials in the Vatican stated that their ability to influence the course of events in Lebanon is limited. However, they expressed their willingness to contribute all they can to relieve the pain of people and push them toward agreement.

Officials there praised the goals of the tripartite committee and expressed their conviction that our committee is bound to take into consideration the rights and interests of all groups in Lebanon.

Contacts With Britain

The prime minister expressed her full support and strong backing of the committee. She expressed Britain's readiness to offer any possible help so that the committee will realize its goals. The prime minister pointed out that forming the committee is, to a great extent, a sound decision, because there are dangers threatening the unity and security of Lebanon.

Contacts With UN Secretary General

The secretary general pointed out that the goals and working plan of the committee is characterized by wisdom and objectivity. He added that all the representatives of the permament members in the Security Council agreed to support the committee's goals and working plan and expressed their readiness to exert all possible efforts to render its movements successful, whether on the individual level of each country or the group effort, in addition to his personal readiness as secretary general to provide the necessary help and support.

Contacts With United States

In the tripartite committee's contacts with the United States, the tripartite committee's goals and working plan were presented to his excellency the U.S. President, including the national accord document. His excellency expressed his appreciation over what the committee was doing. He also expressed the United States' willingness to cooperate with the committee as regards the Lebanese crisis. When the U.S. President pointed out the extent of the link between the Israeli and Syrian presence in Lebanon, our committee hastened to affirm to his excellency that the committee proceeded from a fixed perspective concerning this issue and that it believes that if a solution is to succeed, all the effective and influential sides in Lebanon have fixed duties they must perform. There is no benefit reaped from linking issues to each other. Therefore, it is neither important nor beneficial to draw comparisons on who is more or less influential or prominent. The important thing is that every side should perform its duties and adhere to them. We then explained to the U.S. President our committee's perspective concerning the issue of spreading the authority of the Lebanese state in accordance with the stipulation of the casablanca summit resolution.

Regarding Israeli occupation, UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the 1949 armistice agreement were brought to the attention of the United States. Also brought to the attention of the United States was the fact that ending Israeli occupation as called for by UN resolutions constitutes an important article that may not be ignored or divorced from the document of national reconcilation proposed for solving the Lebanese crisis.

At the conclusion of the meeting with President Bush, the American leader expressed his country's appreciation for our committee's task. He pointed out that the Israelis are aware of the U.S. position on the subject of a withdrawal of all forces and that should that come to pass and blockades be lifted, the results would be excellent.

Contacts With USSR and PRC

The two countries have been reminded of their responsibilities as permanent members of the UN Security Council regarding bringing occupation by Israel of Lebanese territory to an end and the need for seriousness in implementing pertinent UN resolutions. The two countries were also urged to contribute to the committee's efforts on the political and security fronts. The committee found them to be fully responsive.

IV. Evaluating Results

It is clear from the aforementioned that our committee has drawn up a comprehensive, coherent, and integrated visualization of a solution of the Lebanese crisis, principally predicated on political reforms for building a strong, powerful Lebanese state. Our perception envisages that outside elements should be so channeled as to promote the national accord. Accordingly, national reconciliation stipulates withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and a reassertion of the Lebanese state authority over the entire territory of the country and organizing Syrian-Lebanese relations in order to make the required political reforms possible.

This perception, as has been noted, marks the cornerstone of the committee's contacts with the interested and international parties. While our committee has managed

to receive near total support for the efforts it has exerted with the Lebanese parties via its emissaries to Lebanon and the contacts held by the committee's ministers with officials in Syria, it has come up against obstacles on the security and political fronts.

In our opinion, the difference between the viewpoint advanced by the committee and Syria's on the question of (sovereignty) constitutes the most serious obstacle faced by the committee. This is since the Syrian conception—explained earlier—will serve to obstruct the possibility of an integrated, coherent implementation of the other parts of the proposed reconciliation document. For example, the question of reform cannot make headway divorced from the question of (reasserting sovereignty). And so with the security side in light of the contacts with the Lebanese. It is this conception that has led the committee to announce in its statement that, on the political front, we have found ourselves at a dead end. We have also found ourselves at a dead end on the security front.

[Signed] King Hassan of Morocco, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia, President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Describes Talks With King Husayn

PM2308094789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Aug 89 p 2

[Layla Dib report: "'Arafat Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We have Asked King Husayn To Intercede With Washington To Boost Dialogue"]

[Text] Amman, Kuwait—King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat have held their first official meeting, in which discussions covered Middle East issues, especially the Lebanese crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two sides exchanged views on the tripartite committee and the best ways of supporting its work to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy in the context of an Arab solution. They valued the successes achieved by the intifadah [uprising] and the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their daily confrontation with the occupation authorities.

After a round of talks with Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, 'Arafat told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during his meeting with King Husayn he asked him to intercede with the U.S. Administration and other parties to boost the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and steer it in the desired direction.

He said that the latest [U.S.-Palestinian] meeting in Tunis had not lived up to expectations.

He said his talks with King Husayn were talks between members of the same family, proceeding from King Husayn's support for his people and brothers in the occupied territory and for the blessed intifadah, also covering moves at all Arab and international levels and the importance of holding an international conference to establish a just and comprehensive peace taking into consideration the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

On the situation in Lebanon, 'Arafat said that the discussion centered on taking a fraternal and committed stance based on what was agreed at the Casablanca summit conference and the findings of the tripartite committee as outlined in the report it submitted to Arab leaders, and on the importance of urgently achieving a comprehensive and binding cease-fire to which everyone would be committed in the interest of Lebanon's unity, security, and stability.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has stated that the reopening of the Palestine National Fund offices in Jordan will further strengthen the already strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

'Text' of 'Arafat Message on Al-Aqsa Anniversary

JN2108193289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Aug 89

["Text" of message from PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to Muslim heads of state marking the 20th anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa Mosque—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Glory to God who did take His servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque, whose precincts He did bless. [Koranic verse] Majesties, highnesses, excellencies; kings, princes, heads of state of sisterly Islamic nations: Peace be upon you. Twenty years ago today, a heinous crime was committed against the first of the two qiblahs and the holy mosque in Mecca by extremist Zionists who burned al-Aqsa mosque, thus betraying their transparent schemes and dirty conspiracies against our Islamic and Christian sanctities.

The anniversary comes to highlight the continuous, deliberate, and daily desecration of our sanctities, tradition, and identity as well as the brazen violation of all cultural and heavenly values and norms. This desecration is part and parcel of the policy of war and the arrogance of force practiced by Israel against our people, in defiance of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Since the commission of this vicious crime 20 years ago, international legtimacy represented in the UN Security Council denounced Israel, in Resolution 371 of 1969, for this crime and for soiling al-Aqsa mosque. The resolution called on Israel to abrogate all measures serving to change the status of Jerusalem. That decision of the Security Council recalled its previous resolutions and

those of the UN General Assembly concerning the invalidity of Israeli measures affecting the status of Jerusalem. It affirmed its rejection of the principle of the acquisition of territory by force and made clear that any destruction or desecration of holy places severely risks international peace and security. There have been repeated denunciations by the UN Generaly Assembly and Security Council and other world agencies of these Israeli measures, especially the annexation of Jerusalem and other measures to alter the identity of the holy city as well as destroying our sanctities and cultural heritage and changing their demographic and cultural character.

Nonetheless, the Israeli occupation authorities have pursued their plan of suppressing the Palestinian national identity by destroying its cultural and religious symbols despite the standing of these sacred places for Muslims and Christians alike. The occupation authorities have persisted in tearing down old quarters and prevented the restoration of houses of invaluable archeological significance; and they have built belts of housing complexes around Jerusalem and on the land they confiscated from our people, its original owners.

Besides these demolition operations, the occupation authorities have not hesitated to restrict the freedom of performing religious rites in these holy places. Following the eruption of our people's blessed intifadah [uprising] the authorities imposed a siege on all the holy places. They massed their troops to prevent worshippers from reaching them. The areas where houses of worship are located have been repeatedly declared closed military areas, worshippers have been arrested and viciously attacked, and many Muslim and Christian religious leaders have been deported.

The proposals recently announced by the Israeli Government, known as the Shamir plan, have revealed this premeditated intention. As a result of the steadfastness of our kinfolk in occupied Jerusalem for more than 20 years against the deportations, the confiscation of land, and the banning of construction, the Israeli occupation authorities insist on their plan to keep them away from any election that might take place in the future during which the Palestinian people will voice their opinion on the future of their homeland.

Thus, the city of Jerusalem is the target of a deliberate operation of exclusion by the forces of occupation whose objective is to reaffirm that this holy city has been torn away from the Palestinian homeland.

Our people have unanimously supported what the PLO has announced; what successive Palestine National Council sessions have adopted; and which the UN General Assembly and other international bodies have approved in successive resolutions—namely, that the Palestinian people's inalienable rights are first and foremost their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, a capital you have recognized.

The 20th anniversary of the al-Aqsa crime, for which Israel was condemned on Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and international levels, is an occasion to remind the world at large and to draw its attention to what is taking place in occupied Palestine: repression, terrorism, deportation, and incarceration of tens of thousands; the demolition of houses; the firing on defenseless women, children, and elders; and measures to suppress their cultural identity by closing educational institutions and demoliting religious and archeological sites and changing their landmarks contrary to all international conventions.

Our Palestinian Arab people, led by the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, and backed by our Arab and Islamic nation and by all the free and honest men in the world will pursue their just struggle and their blessed intifadah to terminate the Israeli occupation of their sacred land; to rescue the land from which the prophet ascended to Heaven from the claws of the odious occupation; and to establish their independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, God willing.

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. And to enter Your temple as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse] Revolution until victory.

Fatah's Al-Hasan Cited on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN2208192989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
21 Aug 89 pp 1, 16

[Excerpts] PLO officials have sharpened their tone against the United States and a week ago began attacking Washington's "biased and hostile position on the Arab-Israeli conflict." [passage omitted]

In a telephone conversation with AL-WATAN, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan denied that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat had recently received a message from Shim'on Peres, leader of the Labor Party and Israeli finance minister, containing new proposals concerning elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

A few days ago, Al-Hasan stated that 'Arafat received a message on this subject from the enemy war minister Yitzhaq Rabin through Egyptian officials.

Asked to evaluate the recent round of talks between the Palestinian and U.S. officials in Tunis, Al-Hasan said in an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN that the fourth round was no different from the three previous ones. It clearly showed that the United States still wants to proceed from a standpoint centering on Tel Aviv and not from a neutral position, he said.

He explained that the United States failed to give any answers to the questions that the PLO posed during the previous rounds. These concern Washington's understanding of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and its position on the right to repatriation, the establishment of the state, and the recognition of the

PLO. Al-Hasan stressed that the dialogue between the United States and the PLO needs new dynamism through Arab supportive stands. These stands are supposed to be committed to the recent Casablanca resolutions aiming at pushing the dialogue toward seriousness.

"I do not expect the dialogue to achieve practical results in a short time," he said.

He added: The dialogue is slow, which is Baker's strategy, who is experiencing problems with the Israelis in addition to the problems of world detente. This situation will continue to affect the dialogue until he can harmonize the two stands and reach a final position.

Al-Hasan stressed that although this is a logical stand, the final position should be neutrality in the dialogue with the PLO—a basic characteristic that is still lacking.

On the political situation in Israel and its impact on a Middle East settlement, Al-Hasan said: The problem is that the Likud is facing an internal power struggle and a conflict with the broader masses because it lacks national consensus. Add to this the extremist nature of the party, and you realize that the Likud can provide nothing at this stage except extremism.

Al-Hasan stressed that the solution to this problem in the opinion of the United States lies in dissolving the Israeli Government and holding new elections. [passage omitted]

DFLP Accuses U.S. of 'Extortion' on Shamir Plan

NC2008184089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has accused the United States of practicing a campaign of extortion against the PLO in a bid to force it to accept Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories.

In a statement issued in Damascus today, the DFLP maintained that the U.S. Administration has demonstrated a hostile, negative attitude toward the Palestinian people's demands and the international community's appeals regarding a comprehensive, even-handed settlement of the Palestinian problem and of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The statement added that regardless of its maneuvers and procrastination, the United States will fail to shake the Palestinian people's confidence in their just cause or their determination to exact their freedom and independence. The statement calls on the U.S. leaders to reconsider their aggressive policy.

Khalaf Cited on Lebanon, Dialogue With U.S.

JN2208101589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Doha, 22 Aug (WAKH)—Salah Khalaf, known as Abu-Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has reiterated the call for a cease-fire in Lebanon to save this country from destruction.

In an interview with the Qatari paper AL-SHARQ, Abu-Iyad affirmed that what is going on in the Lebanese arena is a tragedy for all the Arabs and a crime against the Arab nation and the Lebanese people. He said that those benefiting from what is going on in that country are the Zionists, while the side harmed by it is the popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

Abu-Iyad urged the higher tripartite Arab committee to resume its role to save Lebanon in view of the status and capabilities enjoyed by the committee member states, in addition to the fact that the committee represents all the Arabs, who elected it at the recent Casablanca Arab summit conference.

Referring to the recent round of talks between the PLO and the United States Abu-Iyad affirmed that no results were reached at this session. He said the Americans asked the PLO to become a broker to tell the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory that those residing in the West Bank and Gaza constitute the Palestinian people, that the 4 and ½ million Palestinians in exile must settle in the countries where they reside throughout the world, and that they must accept self-rule under the Israeli occupation.

He also affirmed that the Americans had actually threatened to suspend the dialogue with the PLO if it does not respond to their demands, indicating in this regard that the Palestinians do not beg for their independence and that they will continue to struggle with all means and will accept nothing short of the independent Palestinian state.

He said that despite this U.S. stand, the PLO will not end its dialogue with the United States so that it cannot be said before the Arab nation that the Palestinians have been neglectful. On the contrary, he said, the Palestinians have offered a great deal.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Invitation From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2108203989 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] At the presidential office today President Chadli Bendjedid received a message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was delivered by Sa'd Mujbar, secretary of the fraternal Bureau of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Algiers.

Mujbar said that the leader of the Libyan revolution extended to the president an invitation to attend the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution and the Maghreb summit which is scheduled to take place at the same time.

Mujbar said also that the message dealt with the good relations linking the two fraternal countries and strengthening action in the Maghreb area.

Islamic Salvation Front Files for Legal Approval

LD2208204589 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] This afternoon, the Islamic Salvation Front filed an application for approval at the Interior Ministry. It is the fifth political grouping to do this to gain legality, following the Social-Democratic Party, the Socialist Vanguard Party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, and the National Party for Solidarity and Development. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Cited on Lebanon, Other Issues

JN2208192889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Aug 89 p 16

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SIYASAH—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Egypt views the upcoming visit by his highness the Kuwaiti amir as an historic one. He added that the meeting which will take place between President Mubarak and his highness the amir will have a great effect on bilateral ties. He went on to say that Egyptian-Kuwaiti ties are excellent and strong.

At a news conference held in Cairo attended by Kuwaiti press correspondents, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the timing of the visit adds a new dimension to the importance of this visit, as this visit will materialize before the convening of the Nonaligned Movement summit in Belgrade at a time when President Mubarak is the chairman of the OAU while the Kuwaiti amir is the chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Egyptian and Kuwaiti peoples are happy with this visit. He added that the two Arab leaders will discuss in their talks all current Arab and international issues.

The Egyptian foreign minister added that the two leaders will discuss the overall Arab situation in general. He went on to say that the pressing issue which nowadays imposes itself is the escalation currently being witnessed in Lebanon and the consequent deterioration of the situation there. He underlined the importance of putting an end to this deterioration. He said that Kuwait exerted strenuous efforts in this regard and that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad is well aware of the developments pertaining to this issue, as he chaired the six-member committee during the period preceding the convening of the Casablanca summit and also as he played a great role that is appreciated by all parties in the region.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the tripartite committee emanated from the Casablanca summit and attempted to tackle the crisis. He added: We want the efforts made by the committee to be viewed as a first attempt. We also hope that this committee will regain its role once again and make a second attempt. He affirmed that all agencies and parties are asking the committee to revive its efforts. The last appeal made in this regard was contained in the UN Security Council resolution which was welcomed by Egypt. Egypt asked the tripartite committee to revive its role and begin its activitites. He added: An end must be put to the bloodshed in Lebanon.

The foreign minister voiced the hope that the Lebanon committee efforts will not end by the first report made on the situation, as it is an initial report. He said that the members comprising the tripartite committee lend this committee its special importance, as this committee consists of the Moroccan, Saudi, and Algerian leaders and also as this committee has the components required for success. He reaffirmed that a second attempt will be welcomed by all parties.

On the possibility of holding an Arab summit on Lebanon, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the talks held on the issue have not reached the extent of fixing a date for this summit or for definitive results such as this. He added: Our objective behind the endeavors being made to resolve the Lebanese crisis must be specified. Our primary objective is to bring about an immediate cease-fire and lift the blockades being imposed on ports. Afterward, the process of restoring Lebanon's constitutional legitimacy can then begin. He affirmed that these issues were discussed during lengthy meetings held at the heads of state and foreign minister levels at the Casablanca summit. He added: There was an agreement on the importance of achieving these objectives. The tripartite committee was tasked with following up the achievement of these objectives.

The Egyptian foreign minister indicated that the committee's task is an arduous one and said that the committee members as well as the Arab League envoy made strenuous efforts in this regard. He added: We are aware of the formidable difficulties standing in the way. However, we hope that a second attempt by the committee will be launched after things reached unspeakable limits over which silence cannot be maintained. He went on to say that the meeting to be held between the Kuwaiti amir and President Mubarak will be a basic step designed to tackle all of these issues, especially as Egypt and Kuwait are agreed on the importance of putting an end to the Lebanese tragedy.

On the latest developments in the efforts being made to resolve the crisis, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the tripartite committee prepared a draft plan for national accord and constitutional reforms. He added that this draft plan is being currently submitted to all parties. According to our information, this draft plan was handed over to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said.

The Egyptian foreign minister went on to say: We are following the efforts being made at the UN Security Council, particularly the important French efforts which are showing an unmistakable desire on the part of President Mitterrand to realize a national accord in Lebanon. We expect that this draft plan will be discussed by all parties, by the tripartite committee, and also by the five big powers. This draft plan might be a key to ending military operations, establishing a cease-fire, and embarking on the process of introducing constitutional reforms.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Egyptian stand calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese troops. However, we must be clear about defining the first objective behind any future moves. The first and primary objective right now is to bring about a cease-fire, as the continuation of shelling, as is happening nowadays, cannot lead to any results. Besides, the objective should also be to secure a commitment by all parties to honor the cease-fire. Then, meetings would be held among all parties. The tripartite committee would be expected to play a primary role in these meetings.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed the importance of a commitment by all parties, be they Israel or Iran, to respect the cease-fire. He added: Syria and the Lebanese parties must also observe the cease-fire. The Egyptian stand affirms the commitment of all parties which are interfering in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Palestine question will also be discussed by the Kuwaiti amir and President Mubarak. He added that the Palestine question was bolstered at the Casablanca summit. He went on to say: On this occasion, we would like to pay tribute to the constructive role played by the PLO and also to the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions. The Palestine question gained support at the Geneva UN meetings. After the initiation of the intifadah [uprising], the Palestine question forced its way through the international arena to impose itself, as it is a just cause pertaining to the rights of a people. And peoples' rights cannot go to waste.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that there are numerous difficulties created by Israel. He added: We are aware of this. However, this prompts us to call upon Israel to respond favorably to the constructive stands announced by the PLO in its political program which was issued after the convening of the PNC in Algiers. He added that the U.S. dialogue is continuing. However, he said, this dialogue can have a faster pace and demonstrate further strength. The U.S. stand developed positively. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say: The Palestinian side cannot be asked to accept a certain status whose outcome is not known, as it is in a difficult situation. One of the most important points which we stress is the issue pertaining to a final settlement. No party can go to elections to launch a situation that is both transitional and not final. [sentence as published] What we want is a clarification. Contacts are still under way between us on the one hand and the U.S., Israeli, and Palestinian sides on the other. The U.S. stand is clear as regards the principle of trading land for peace which falls in total harmony with the Arab stand. [passage omitted]

NPUP, Iraq's Ba'th Party Discuss Lebanon

JN2208173089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Party [NPUP] have called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

In a meeting held at the NPUP headquarters here today between Shabib al-Maliki, member of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Mr Lutfi Wakid, assistant secretary of the NPUP, the two parties stressed importance of the Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis. The two parties' delegations reviewed the tragic situation in Lebanon and its danger on national Arab security.

IRNA Reports 'Activist' Al-Shinnawi's Arrest

LD2208164389 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Athens, Aug. 22, IRNA—A leading Muslim writer and activist Dr. Fahmi al-Shinnawi has been arrested during the latest clampdown of Islamists in Egypt. Al-Shinnawi's wife told IRNA by phone from Cairo he and his son Muhammad were arrested early this month.

According to the daily Al-SHARAQ AL-AWSAT published in London, Al-Shinnawi, a former professor of the urinary tract, had travelled to Tehran to treat Imam Khomeyni when he was ill. It was announced in Cairo Sunday that 52 persons has been arrested for allegedly forming a pro-Iranian group to topple President Husni Mubarak regime and set up an Islamic government. Those arrested have denied the allegation, according to Cairo press reports.

AL-WAFD Cited on Arrest

LD2008222989 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Athens, Aug 20, IRNA—An Iranian and a Syrian are among 40 Muslim activists arrested in the Egyptian towns of al-Mansurah and Tanta recently for allegedly forming a "Shiite organization," according to a report published in Cairo.

The daily AL-WAFD said the group is accused of aiming to create an Islamic revolution in Egypt and topple the present secular regime.

The state security prosecutor has ordered the detention of all the accused for 15 days for further investigations in the case.

AL-WAFD said the Islamists were arrested early this month and the prosecutor is preparing charges against them for forming a pro-Iranian organizaiton to propagate Shiite thought in Egypt and preparing cadres to create an Islamic state by force.

The accused, who are being held in Abu-Zabal Jail, have denied all the charges.

One of the arrested, Ahmad Rasim Amin, a lecturer in the medical college in al-Mansurah University, said he was severely tortured by security officers to force him to confess his membership of the alleged organization.

Among the books confiscated by the police from the accused include "Iran From Inside" by Egyptian writer Fahmi Howeidi, complete works of Imam 'Ali, a book on Husayn Ibn-'Ali, and the late Imam Khomeyni's [book] on the hajj.

Libya

PFLP-GC's Jibril Arrives for Talks 19 Aug

LD1908093289 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 19, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to Great Jamahiryah. Ahmad Jibril made a statement to JANA's correspondent. He said that his visit to Great Jamahiryah was to discuss the Arab situation in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

PPSF's Ghawshah Arrives in Tripoli 18 Aug

LD1908093389 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 19, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr Samir Ghawshah, the secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], and the delegation in his company arrived yesterday in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiryah.

Dr Ghawshah made a statement to JANA's correspondent. He said, "Our visit to Great Jamahiryah came within the context of consultations and the consideration of best ways to consolidate the popular uprising inside occupied Palestine and undoubtedly the situation the Arab world is going through requires all Arab militants to endeavor using all resources to enhance Palestinian Arab struggle and attain Palestinian goals."

Morocco

UNITA's Savimbi Meets With King Hassan II

MB2208090589 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0530 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Comrade Dr Jonas Savimbi, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] president and FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] supreme commander, continues his triumphant tour of Africa.

Malungo Pedro, Vorgan [Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel] correspondent accompanying the presidential delegation, reports from Rabat, Morocco, that Comrade President Dr Jonas Savimbi, supreme leader of the Angolan revolution, was received by His Majesty King Hassan II in Rabat's Royal Palace on 20 August.

Comrade President Dr Savimbi and the Moroccan king held a long working session that was also attended by several Moroccan ministers and members of the UNITA presidential delegation. The talks focused on political, diplomatic, and military developments as well as peace prospects within the context of the Gbadolite proposal. (?There was agreement) about current difficulties in the negotiated process. We note with satisfaction that His Majesty King Hassan II reiterated his enthusiasm, friendship, and commitment to the search for peace, national reconciliation and progress in a truly free, democratic, and African Angola.

Comrade President Dr Jonas Savimbi then spoke to the media at a Rabat news conference organized by the Moroccan Ministry of Interior and Information. This news conference was attended by newsmen from Morocco, the United States, West Europe, the USSR, and the PRC.

During his 2-day stay in the Kingdom of Morocco, President Dr Jonas Savimbi received at his official residence a large number of political and diplomatic figures who expressed the desire to see the peace process advance firmly and positively toward a real peace that will guarantee the Angolan people the right to freely express their political ambitions and to find their place in the international community as soon as possible.

Sudan

SPLA Representative's Comments on Talks Cited

EA2208173389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] In statements to the press, Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] political-military high command and leader of the SPLM/SPLA delegation to the talks with a delegation of the Khartoum military government in Addis Ababa which started on 19 August 1989, said that the movement's delegation had expected the government delegation to put forward a clear, comprehensive, and informed program on their ideas about ways of achieving peace, but that did not happen.

He said it had become clear during the talks that the government delegation was confusing the peace program with what that program embraced in the way of provisions for a cease-fire and other matters, inasmuch as the government delegation was presenting the latter issues before the former.

He said: We put forward a peace program based on the results of Koka dam and the Sudanese peace initiative based on sound principles, the upholding of democracy, and the participation of the country's political and trade union forces in the finding of a solution at a national constitutional conference. This would require the release of all political prisoners and the unbanning of the trade unions to enable all of them to participate in the conference.

Concluding his statement, Cdr Lam Akol Ajawin declared that it was patent from the submissions of the two sides that no joint position could be arrived at in order to continue the dialogue and accordingly the meeting broke up. The only agreement reached was that the meetings could be resumed at some point in the future, but this depended on the Khartoum military government's acceptance of the movement's program.

Rebels Pledge To Resist 'Military Clique'

EA1808201089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Aug 89

["Introduction" to "Conversation About the Current Situation"]

[Text] Our commentary today is entitled "Let Us Draw Lessons From Our People's Past Experiences in the Struggle Against Military Dictatorship and Its Pro-Numayri and Muslim Brother Supporters." This commentary describes the period following the clique's seizure of power. Following that we shall present a note addressed by the trade unions to the chairman of the so-called salvation revolution. We would like to make the following comments:

First: We support the note wholeheartedly. We regard the restoration of trade union freedom as one of the primary struggles of our people.

Second: We loudly proclaim our solidarity and practical support for all those fired from the civil service and military establishments. We shall read out their names and other information about them, beginning with the Foreign Ministry. We call on democratic forces of the entire world to support our people's struggle for the restoration of the right to work, in the battle against this contingent of fanatics and political garbage.

Third: We shall read out the note addressed to the military council by Mr al-Sadiq Ibn-al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rahman and comment on it.

Fourth: Together with the truly democratic and patriotic forces of our people, we shall do our utmost to resist the clique. We note with admiration that our people are conducting their battle against the military clique with total determination, sophistication, and patience, ignoring the chaos, empty slogans, and fascist rule advocated by fascist groups like the National Islamic Front. The only way to resist such things is through determination, patience, vigilance, diligence, and hard work. Health comes by degrees and [words indistinct].

Fifth: The military clique and the band of fascist brothers must not attempt to use the institutions of state to liquidate their opponents. The (?roving patrols) formed by Hasan al-Banna say that force will be met with force. This was the experience our youth movement had with the Muslim brothers. The only language the brothers and their leaders understand is that the killer of a savage is a hero and whoever is killed by a savage is a martyr. To whom of us does this apply, and which of us is a coward ?

Sixth: In our commentary on the clique's policies, we shall show that it is shamefully submitting to the conditions laid down recently by the IMF. We will also comment on the SPLM/SPLA program to overthrow that clique.

Seventh: The banner of the uprising and Koka Dam will remain aloft in our hands, as the foundation for any peace and dialogue. Long the mass struggle. Greetings to all the citizens in the clique's prisons. Long live the struggle for the return of the trade unions. Victory for our people. Let us draw lessons from our people's past experience in the struggle against military dictatorship and its pro-Numayri and Muslim brother supporters.

Army Disarms Chadian Dissidents in Darfur Region
AB2008205189 Paris AFP in French 1634 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Aug (AFP)—The Sudanese Army has disarmed the Chadian dissidents who had sought refuge in Sudan and has limited their freedom of movement by imposing checks on their movement in the Darfur Region, Western Sudan, a member of the ruling junta, General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, stated today.

In a statement to the the ARMED FORCES newspaper, Gen al-Tijani did not specify the date of the disarmament. He added that the Sudanese Government had entered into contact with both the Chadian Government and the dissidents with a view to trying to persuade them to enter into direct negotiations toward the repatriation of the dissidents.

According to the general, the replies of both sides were encouraging, adding that time was needed to arrive at a solution between the Ndjamena government and the dissident.

It will be recalled that Gen al-Tahir went to Chad in July to explain to the authorities in Chad the junta's aims and objectives in order to improve relations between the two countries—relations which deteriorated in June under the government of former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Minister Cited on Sufficient Fuel Supply
EA2008082889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel al-Tayyib Muhammad Ibrahim, the minister of presidential affairs, has stated that fuel currently in storage will suffice the country for 8 days. Quantities contracted for have begun arriving in the country regularly, and they will last for 8 months.

He said that the queues which appeared this morning in a noticeable manner at gasoline stations in the capital were due to internal errors by the operating oil companies, which had failed to distribute the Friday allocation during the scheduled period.

He stressed that the fuel situation is extremely reassuring and said that the Revolution Command Council had from the outset sworn to tell the citizens all the facts. Concealing facts would never be one of its characteristics.

36,887 Refugees Registered in Khartoum
EA2108195289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1614 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 August—The number of aliens and refugees who have been registered in the national capital, has so far stood at 37,887, said chairman of aliens and refugees sorting out and registering project Col 'Police' Sa'id al-Sayyid Sadiq.

A wide-scale campaign against aliens and refugees who have not registered their names, will be launched immediately after the expiry of the deadline, which has been prolonged for a month, ends next 19th September.

On the other hand, Refugee Commissioner Brig "Rtd" 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, following a meeting with ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany, affirmed that the refugee problem in Sudan is the problem of the world and that Sudan is hosting the refugees on behalf of the world, hence, a world's positive contribution towards solving this problem is essential.

He said the ambassador had expressed deep understanding to this problem and pledged to convey [word indistinct] attitudes to his government, which he said will back Sudan's humanitarian efforts towards the refugees.

Western Sahara

Statement Issued on Moroccan King's Address
LD2208143289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The government of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] has issued a statement in reply to the address by King Hassan II of Morocco, in which he called upon Saharans, whom he regards as his subjects, to return to their homeland, Morocco. The Saharan statement pointed out that King Hassan's call bears two interpretations. The first is that the address concerns POW's of the Moroccan royal forces captured by the Saharan People's Liberation Army. As far as these POW's are concerned, the statement went on, 200 were released on 12 June. The Moroccan authorities, however, have refused to receive them and allow them to return to their families in Morocco. They have been waiting since that date for such a call in order to return to their homes.

The Saharan statement affirmed that more than 2,000 Moroccan persons are still prisoners in the hands of the Saharan People's Liberation Army; their release is expected with the continuation of the Moroccan-Saharan dialogue.

The statement pointed out, furthermore, that th Saharan government has always believed that a just an lasting peace in the conflict between the Saharan peopl and the Moroccan Kingdom lies in the total withdrawa of the army of occupation as well as Moroccan settler and administration from Western Sahara. The Saharan statement affirmed that the SDAR remains certain that the bloody 14-year experience of war has clearly proved that victory cannot be achieved, whether in the past or the future, through the use of force.

PDRY

Supreme People's Council Views Draft Election Law

EA2008170489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] The Supreme People's Council Presidium continued its 34th session this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. Discussion of issues on its agenda was completed.

The council examined the draft law on elections to people's councils. Observations made by the council's legal committee in light of recommendations put forward at the 9th session of the Supreme People's Council were studied. After detailed discussions, the Presidium decided to convene an extraordinary session of the Supreme People's Council on 28 August. The task of the session will be to approve the final form of the draft law on elections to people's councils.

The brother chairman of the Presidium affirmed that the approval of the elections law in its new form will be a step along the road of comprehensive political and economic reform and a further expansion of the democratic way of life.

The Presidium also discussed a number of other issues on its agenda and adopted various decisions and measures.

United Arab Emirates

President's Letters to Turkish, Bulgarian Leaders

JN2208170889 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 22 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan yesterday sent letters to President Kenan Evren of Turkey and Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria on bilateral ties. The messages, conveyed through diplomatic channels, were in reply to letters Shaykh Zayid has received from the two leaders.

Information Minister Leaves for Tunis Meeting

JN2208112889 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Hamid, minister of information and culture, left the country for Tunisia this morning leading an official delegation to take part in the meetings of the 24th session of the council of Arab information ministers which will be held there on 24 and 25 August. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

North, South Yemen Resources Companies Meet

JN1808180889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The meetings of the board of directors of the joint Yemeni project for natural resources at the Ministry of Oil and Natural Resources concluded today in Sanaa under the chairmanship of Ahmad al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth and chairman of the board of the current session. Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, deputy prime minister, minister of energy and minerals, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, and vice-chairman of the current session, was present at the meetings.

During the meeting, they reviewed the reports submitted by the financial, administrative, and technical committees set up by the board.

The board reviewed the results of the offers made by international organizations and approved the submitted reports. It urged the executive administration of the project to quickly hold negotiations with the companies that won the tenders, sign agreements on implementing the works to wrap up the first stage, and start work during the next 3 months.

The board affirmed the importance of the coming stage, especially as it will produce the geological map of the two united parts and geophysical and water maps which could facilitate discovery of the natural resources of both parts and prepare to exploit them through joint Yemeni projects.

The board made a number of resolutions in the administrative and technical fields. They affirmed the necessity of concentrating on the issue of qualifying the Yemeni cadres during the next stage.

The general assembly of the Yemeni company for petroleum and mineral resources held its closing session and made the decisions that could hasten the implementation of tasks entrusted to it. It entrusted the executive administration of the company with holding negotiations with the side chosen to implement oil exploration in the joint Yemeni region next month.

President Salih Receives South Yemen Minister

JN1908182089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this morning brother Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, deputy prime minister, minister of energy and mineral wealth, and member of the [Yemeni Socialist Party] Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland.

Ibn-Husaynun acquainted the president with the results of the meetings of the board of the joint Yemeni project for natural resources recently held in Sanaa.

During the meeting, a number of unity action issues were discussed. Brother Ahmad al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth, attended the meeting.

BAGHDAD OBSERVER Notes New Gulf Docks

JN2108144889 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 21, INA- Ministry of Transport and Communications has inaugurated eight new docks at the southern Iraqi port of Khawr al-Zubayr, it was reported here today and published by the BAGHDAD OBSERVER for today.

Two of the new docks, extending 250 metres, will be allocated for exporting Iraqi petro-chemical products, each of which having four depots, three ware-houses for ordinary cargo and commodities and six electric cranes each of six to fifteen tons capacity, the English-language local daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said today.

Other two docks are designed to handle Iraq's exports of phosphate fertilizers and also extend 250 metres, each of them includes three depots for storing one of the three types of phosphate, every depot has a capacity of storing 96,000 tons of phosphate.

The fifth new dock, having the same length, will be allocated for exporting urea fertilizers and incorporates two 46,000 ton-capacity depots, they include modern equipment for receiving, storing and supplying urea fertilizers.

The project includes a factory for pressing phosphate and urea fertilizers, it includes 12 lines for pressing fertilizers and for conveyer belts to facilitate the supply of fertilizers directly to commercial ships. Besides, there is a comprehensive conveyer network to transfer commodities from various points of the dockyard. The project also includes setting up electric power substations, a network of roads inside the dockyard, computer system to provide programmes for the check-up and maintenance of various loading and unloading equipment. The projects includes three steel structure docks including a total of twelve electric cranes, each of an eight-ton capacity.

On the other hand, Iraq has completed work in 10 new docks at the nearby Gulf port of Umm-Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr ports from August 20, 1988 to January 1989 had totalled some 250,000 tons of various goods and commodities.

Following the ceasefire in the Gulf war on August 20, 1988 Iraqi technical teams completed in a record time the sea-bed digging and survey of navigation around Iraqi ports. They also repaired damaged facilities and equipment in the adjacent al-Ma'qil port.

To enhance Iraqi exporting facilities, the water transport department recently started a plan to export some commodities through the Tigris by using dhows, mainly to Arab Gulf states. The main exports include shipments of Iraqi dates and barley to Dubayy. Dhows of a capacity of around 1,500 tons are used while dhows of smaller sizes are being used in river transport in Iraq.

The department prefers dhows of certain load capacity to cope with the Gulf maritime transport capacity. As a start, Iraq has rented a number of dhows of certain capacity, and the fleet would be enlarged after assessing the advantages of this sort of commercial shipping.

Information Minister Leaves for Tunis Meeting

JN2308082889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim left for Tunisia this morning to participate in the meetings of the 24th session of the council of Arab information ministers which will begin in Tunis tomorrow. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Urges Arab Stand Against Syria

JN2208161889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1508 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—The National Assembly has stressed that any Arab stance aiming to please the sectarian Damascus rulers, who are allied with the enemies of the Arab nation, will only encourage them to go far in their destructive role of dividing Lebanon. In a statement it issued here today, the assembly urged Arab and international parliaments to adopt a decisive stance condemning what is happening in Lebanon; demanding withdrawal of the Zionist, Syrian, and Iranian forces from the Lebanese territories; and foiling the conspiracy that aims to divide Lebanon and to eliminate it from the map of the Arab world.

The statement stressed that saving Lebanon and boosting the factors of its unity—people and land—should be the primary task of all the Arabs because this is the way to defeat Zionism and anti-Arabism and their schemes of partition.

The statement said that the agent Syrian regime, whose invading forces have been occupying large parts of Lebanon since 1967, has played a treacherous, contemptible role. It has upgraded its cooperation and coordination with the Zionist entity that occupies significant parts of southern Lebanon and brought further Iranian forces to expand the area of Lebanese territories occupied by foreigners. The common aim, explained the statement, is to occupy Lebanon's territories, abolish the legitimate authority and its institutions, and conquer the will of the genuine Lebanese Arab people to confront the conspiracy with a view to partitioning the country. The statement said the fact that must be highlighted is that partitioning Lebanon is part of the large Zionist project, which aims first of all to break down the pan-Arab security.

The National Assembly pointed out that the partition being tested in Lebanon embodies the sectarian will of Iran's rulers. It said the Syrian-Iranian alliance seeks to accomplish the last chapter of the partitioning process. The assembly said that we have to remember the fact that the pan-Arab security is a unified whole, and that if the anti-Arabs and Zionists manage to achieve their project, then no Arab country can alone protect its border from infiltration. The National Assembly statement explained that the experience of 8 years of war launched against Iraq by the Iranian regime aimed at dividing Iraq into ministates. The goal was to practically embody the common interests among Tel Aviv, Tehran, and Damascus although their roles and tasks were different, the statement added.

Study Analyzes Arab Committee's Role

JN2008112089 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 20, INA—The Iraqi Daily AL-THAWRAH published here today, called for holding an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese crisis and to find suitable solutions for it in implementation for the Casablanca summit resolutions which said that the conference would be held if the Arab committee failed to realize the solution assigned to it.

The daily said in a study written by Dr. Muhsin Khalil and published here today that after 2 months of tireless efforts by the supreme Arab committee formed by the Casablanca summit conference to solve the Lebanese crisis as well as the ministerial committee stemmed from it, the regrettable outcome announced in the statement of the tripartite ministerial committee, was reached. The committee said that its contacts and efforts and meetings had become useless and that it had reached an impasse.

The paper said that the reaction vis-a-vis the statement of the tripartite committee was a two-pronged one. The first prong was demanding the resumption of the committee's efforts and to give it another chance. The other direction demanded holding an Arab summit to implement the Casablanca summit conference resolutions which announced that the conference would be held again if the supreme Arab committee failed to achieve the solution assigned to it.

AL-THAWRAH daily praised in its study the objectivity of the tripartite Arab committee in its efforts saying that the Syrian regime [of] President Hafiz al-Asad was among those who stressed the confidence of the summit in the leaders of the supreme Arab committee. The study said that what had been reached by the supreme committee in its ministerial committee's statement was the objective, fair and just attitude because those leaders did not aim to revenge against any one of the crisis parties.

The daily stressed that the resumption of the tripartite committee's work would be doomed to failure because Hafiz al-Asad did not want the committee to continue efforts and did not want it to achieve success in its mission.

The study said that Hafiz al-Asad, although [he] could not reject the mission assigned to the committee openly as it had been mentioned in his acceptance of the Casablanca summit conference resolution, he practically knew how to reject the mission of the committee if it continued its activities and he also knew how to foil its efforts.

The paper said that the tripartite committee did not lack evidence concerning these intentions of Hafiz al-Asad and it did not announce that out of its keenness not to give Hafiz al-Asad any pretext to accuse it of being inobjective.

Since the beginning of carrying out its mission, the Arab committee was confronted by military escalation of the Syrian forces and their allies and it did not enter Lebanon due to the continuation of worsening security situation.

The study went on to say that resuming the efforts of the committee would be doomed to failure due to various reasons in the forefront of them is that the Syrian ruling regime had accused the committee through its foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar' of being unobjective and unfair and bias although the statement of the tripartite committee did not accuse Syria. It said that the contacts of the committee with Hafiz al-Asad resulted in his rejection to schedule the withdrawal of his forces and thus the resumption of the committee's work would once again face the attitude of Hafiz al-Asad and his rejection to withdraw his forces.

AL-THAWRAH daily refuted the attitude of Hafiz al-Asad by saying if the president of the ruling regime in Syria was ready to cooperate with the committee and to facilitate its mission in realizing the solution how could the Syrian role be explained in expanding the volume of the Iranian interference although the Casablanca summit conference openly asked Hafiz al-Asad to dismiss the Iranian forces from Lebanon because it was al-Asad who got them into Lebanon.

The paper said that Hafiz al-Asad sent before the declaration of the tripartite committee statement, a group of pro-Syrian militia leaders to Tehran and they held two meetings under direct supervision of the Iranian foreign minister and they issued a statement in which they announced coordination with Iran and Syria against the eastern part of Beirut.

AL-THAWRAH daily stressed that the recent military escalation and offensive against Suq al-Gharb and principled Arab attitude whose bases were drawn in the Casablanca summit conference. [incomplete sentence as received] The daily added that what is required is a meeting of an Arab summit to adopt the same previous attitude and to tell Hafiz al-Asad to withdraw from Lebanon.

Officials Said 'Misusing' Palestinian Meetings

TA2208180189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Prominent Palestinian East Jerusalem lawyer Ziyad Abu-Zayyad says Abu-Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] call for an end to all contacts between residents of the territories and Israeli officials represents nothing new. Abu-Zayyad told reporter Mark Weiss that residents of the territories oppose meetings with Israeli officials because it gives the impression that the Israelis have a local partner for dialogue.

[Begin Abu-Zayyad recording] Since last February there was a feeling in the occupied territories that the Israeli leaders are trying to misuse their contacts with Palestinians by claiming that they have Palestinian partners to talk with inside the occupied territories. And since then there was a decision by the unified leadership to prevent any meetings and any contacts between any Palestinian leader and the Israeli officials. Since then there were no such meetings except in some occasions that Palestinian leaders were brought by the army or by the so-called Civil Administration, which is a military administration, they were brought to their office and then found themselves face to face with an Israeli official that they were not told about his presence, and they were not consulted whether they will meet him or not.

But generally speaking the position inside the occupied territories is exactly as Abu-Iyad declared, that we are not meeting with Israeli officials—not because we are against dialogue, but because we feel that the Israeli officials are misusing these meetings to claim that they have Palestinian partners to talk with. [end recording]

Meridor on PLO Instructions To Halt Meetings

TA2308070389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Friedman] Good morning, Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

[Meridor] Good morning.

[Friedman] Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] yesterday declared that the PLO has ordered Palestinians in the territories to stop contacts with Israelis. Will this announcement have a negative effect on the Israeli Government's attempts to promote the initiative of elections in the territories?

[Meridor] We must first understand what this announcement teaches us. I believe this is a sign of the PLO's weakness, not its strength. It indicates that if anything scares or causes concern for the heads of the PLO and Fatah, it is just the issues we are promoting: The meetings and the notion of elections. They realize that any process that could lead to the creation of a local leadership that would be willing to talk, that would calm the dispute, would leave the PLO out of the picture. That is why I view this resolution, this declaration of theirs, as a sign of a certain success for our move. I also believe it indicates that we should continue, determinedly and unwaveringly, to hold meetings with residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to keep promoting what we have started.

[Mardor] It is possible, however, that there will be no one to meet following this Abu-Iyad statement.

[Meridor] I do not think so. It is not true that those we have met were sent by the PLO. They came to the meetings, and the PLO was very embarrassed by them. I believe they should go on. We should try to determine whether we should let the PLO enforce a veto, because if one holds up we would be unable to progress with the process.

This is clearly a struggle, a war between us and the PLO. We are not without means. I believe we should be more active in overtly explaining our aim to the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I believe we will be heard. I believe they do not want to miss this historic opportunity, as they have before. Those residing in Tunisia are far away, while those that live here know the reality as it is. I believe that we must go on with these meetings. I know this would upset the PLO, and that it would try to oppose them. We knew this would happen all along. Our plan, our initiative, was never addressed to the PLO. It is addressed to the local population. The signs we are witnessing indicate clearly that we must stay on the course we have chosen.

[Friedman] Abu-Iyad said yesterday that Prime Minister Shamir wanted to meet with Hanna Sinyurah, editor of AL-FAJR, but the latter refused following the instructions from Tunis. Do you know anything of such a meeting being planned and later canceled?

[Meridor] No, I know nothing of it. I would guess it is not true.

[Friedman] Yes. Could you tell us whether our prime minister still meets Palestinian figures? Has he done so recently, after the published series of meetings?

[Meridor] I am not in the habit of publishing such details. The prime minister has not changed his policy and his intentions. He and other Israelis will continue—as they have in the past—to maintain contacts with the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to promote our political initiative.

[Mardor] Has our initiative indeed made progress?

[Meridor] We should not be timing this. The PLO is timing it. The PLO believes that if it manages to hold on some more, if it succeeds in imposing a reign of terror for

a couple of more months—and we fail to find local Arabs who will state that they are willing to talk and here is our delegation for negotiations—that the process will simply perish and there will be no more threats to the PLO. I believe we should loudly proclaim just the opposite stand. We are not timing the process. We will wait; we will promote it; we will not declare the process a failure—precisely the contrary. The fact that such meetings are being held is progress in itself.

[Friedman] Let us move to another issue: The death of the U.S.-Palestinian youth in Ramallah. Could we not have spared ourselves embarrassment in our relations with the United States had we delayed the autopsy until the American pathologist who was sent upon the family's request gets here?

[Meridor] I do not think so. We are cooperating with the United States on this issue as well as on others. We are open with the United States and have nothing to hide on this issue. This does not supersede our duty to investigate and examine cases such as this—a tragic case where a youth was killed—because we need to know the answers for ourselves. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and its pathologists have examined it, and we are not preventing others from examining whatever they wish to examine.

[Friedman] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, thank you.

[Meridor] Thank you.

Gaza Notables on Moderating PLO Positions

TA2308110889 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Aug 89 p A4

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] "I was glad to hear a very accurate appraisal for the first time: Palestinians in the territories claim that the PLO has changed its policies as a result of the new positions adopted by the leaders of the population within the territories. This is a very brave statement."

This remark was made by Knesset Member [MK] 'Oded Zucker of the Citizen Rights Movement [CRM] at the conclusion of a visit to the Gaza Strip.

The tour was organized by Bezelem [In His Image], an organization that deals with human rights. Joining MK Zucker were Labor Party MK's 'Amir Peretz and Hagay Merom; as well as Zehava Gal'on, the director of Bezelem, which was set up by the CRM and other members of the Israeli left.

Lawyer Hasim Abu-Sha'ban, deputy chairman of the Gaza Strip Bar Association, who has also formed a new human rights group in the Gaza Strip, hosted the Israeli delegation at his home in the al-Rumayl neighborhood. Abu-Sha'an said that "the Palestinian people in the territories have succeeded in convincing the PLO's leadership to accept the new position held by most Palestinians, and the PLO has agreed to live together, in two states."

MK Zucker said that there is a struggle for peace within Israel and that this fight has had results within Israeli society. MK Peretz expressed his opinion that "all Knesset members should come here and encourage the residents to hold elections."

The Palestinian speakers at the meeting stressed that they would not conduct elections in the territories without the PLO's authorization. They added, however, that the Palestinians in the territories see themselves as a bridge toward peace negotiations.

Among the Gazans who participated in the meeting were businessman Muhammad Abu-Sufayr, lawyer Subhi al-'mudi, Rashid al-Madni, and Yasri al-Barbari, chairwoman of the women's associations in the Gaza Strip.

[Tel Aviv HA'RETZ in Hebrew on 23 August in a page 3 report by Eytan Rabin reports that "Dr Dhakariyya al-Ar'a, a senior leader in the Gaza Strip, who is identified with the Fatah mainstream and also serves as chairman of the Gaza Strip Medical Association, refused to meet with MK's Peretz and Merom. Dr al-Ar'a canceled his participation in the meeting after he learned that Labor Party MK's were to take part along with CRM MK Zucker."]

Shamir Cited on Meeting With Palestinians

TA2308120789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that he has recently met with well-educated and experienced Palestinians who heard him out and were convinced that he wants peace. According to him, this stunned the PLO leaders who have claimed all along that Israel is not interested in peace.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister thus commented on remarks made by Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], 'Arafat's deputy, saying that the PLO forbids Palestinian figures to meet Israelis.

In a conversation with Bill Paxon, a Republican congressman from New York, Shamir noted an article written by a PLO member claiming that no meetings with Shamir and his associates should be held because these meetings cause embarrassment, and endanger the unity of the Palestinian camp. For me, the prime minister said, this is a compliment, because if our suggestions confuse the Palestinians, it proves that they are beginning to doubt their own positions, which is the beginning of the success of the Israeli Government peace initiative.

Commentator Views Faith in Bush Administration
TA2208161689 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 21 Aug 89 p 16

[By Mahir Abu-Khatir: "U.S. Commitments Are Not Backed Up"]

[Text] When the United States agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO last December, it was believed then that the PLO had met the U.S. conditions for the start of the dialogue and that the dialogue would become an asset to the peace process. It was also agreed that the PLO's meeting of the three U.S. conditions—recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognition of Israel, and renouncing terrorism—would suffice for starting a peace process in the region and that no new conditions would be placed on the PLO to keep the dialogue going.

However, ever since the opening of the dialogue, the U.S. has done nothing but use this avenue to blackmail the PLO into further concessions. This seems to be the case in the last Tunis meeting between the PLO, represented by Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau. The U.S. rushed this meeting after it became aware of the Fatah political statement made in Tunis last week calling for escalating armed struggle against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The U.S. reacted strongly and irrationally to the Fatah statement. State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler made a rash statement criticizing Fatah and accusing it of not saying anything that would help the peace process and of even going back on its commitments that led to the opening of the dialogue. Tutwiler even admitted she was making the criticism of the Fatah statement before seeing the full text of the statement. This is somewhat unprofessional of the U.S. State Department to come out so strongly against something before seeing it.

The objective and neutral observers saw in the Fatah statement exactly the opposite of what the State Department said. They saw in it a contribution to the peace process not matched in any way by the PLO's adversary Israel. They saw that Fatah backed its leader's moderate and forthcoming political approach for a settlement. The Fatah meeting was actually a setback to the hard-liners and a victory to the moderates in the Palestinian movement.

But since the U.S. is apparently not interested in the PLO's peace efforts, but rather in how many more concessions it can milk out of the Palestine organization, it chose to react quickly and strongly to the statement. It picked on one sentence in the statement and made a big deal out of it. When the Palestinians ask the U.S. to make a similar big deal out of Israel's continued use of force and even escalation of repression against Palestinians in the occupied territories, the U.S. keeps mum.

The three conditions the PLO accepted to start a dialogue with the U.S. did not say anything about Palestinians not fighting for the liberation of their land. So why is the U.S. asking the PLO for another condition, namely to stop any kind of military activity against the Israeli army in the occupied territories? The U.S. clearly wants the PLO and Palestinians to gradually disclaim any right they have to a state until in the end the Palestinians will be left with nothing to struggle for.

There were also reports that the U.S. might refuse to grant Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat a visa to attend the opening session of the UN General Assembly unless 'Arafat agrees to allow Palestinians from the occupied territories only to negotiate with Israel over its proposal for elections in the occupied territories. The U.S. is using whatever leverage it has over the PLO to force it to accept the Israeli elections proposal. Once again, the U.S. is using the dialogue to blackmail the PLO into making further concessions. Israel meanwhile, is not being asked to do anything. The minute Israel made its elections proposal, the U.S. grabbed it and fought for it as if it were its own. But when 'Arafat made many peace proposals more forthcoming than the Israeli elections idea, the U.S. did not bother even to respond to them.

The U S., unfortunately, is not even trying to win credibility or the trust of the Palestinian people. It has had many opportunities to gain this missing credibility, but for some reason it has failed to capitalize. Even George Shultz, the bitter enemy of Palestinians and strongly disliked by Palestinians, won some points when he agreed to start the dialogue with the PLO. Palestinians put more faith in the Bush administration and expected more from it. This faith is gradually fading and this is not a healthy sign.

French Plan To Solve Conflict Reported
TA2208123289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] France is initiating a preliminary meeting for an international conference to be held under UN auspices, with the participation of the five members of the UN Security Council, to solve the Middle East conflict. French President Francois Mitterrand hopes to convene the conference within the next few months.

Information concerning the French plan has reached 'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador in Paris, who reported it to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. The report indicates that France has involved the Soviets and the PLO in its plans, while totally ignoring U.S. appeals not to initiate a political move that might contradict the Israeli peace initiative.

According to the U.S. Administration, the Israeli initiative is currently the only chance for starting an overall political move in the Middle East. It is now feared, both in Jerusalem and in Washington, that the French initiative might torpedo the Israeli one.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and top officials of the Foreign Ministry have started acting to foil the French move, while coordinating with the United States. Ambassador Sofer, who is said to be well connected in French Government circles, has taken upon himself the task of blocking the initiative. Israel has asked the EC countries to support its political initiative, and informed them that it categorically objects to an international conference or a preliminary conference toward it. "We will not agree to participate in such conferences, therefore the step has no chance of succeeding anyway," Israel's representatives have said.

Poland's Kozakiewicz on Bilateral Relations
TA2208132489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, Polish Sejm speaker, by special correspondent in Poland Yisra'el Volman on 21 August; place not given]

[Text] "I hope recent developments in Poland will soon lead to the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel," Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, the new speaker of the Polish Sejm, stated yesterday in an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Kozakiewicz, a member of the United Peasant Party which will be part of the new coalition led by Solidarity, added: "At the moment, your ambassador holds the awkward title of 'head of Israel's interests department.' I hope we will soon be able to simplify his title."

[Volman] What will be the attitude of the new regime in Poland toward developing relations with Israel?

[Kozakiewicz] It depends on the makeup of the government. Generally speaking, it will obviously take a positive attitude toward breaking taboos in our foreign policy. It will take action to make us more independent and less reliant.

The same holds true for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel. To date we have toed the line of other socialist countries, but we are not that dependent now.

In the meantime, our two countries have developed informal relations without talking too much about the matter. About 50,000 Israeli tourists come to this country every year without it getting too much publicity here. My daughter visited Israel a month ago and stayed in a kibbutz for 2 weeks. She had a hard time finding a seat on the plane to Poland. This means that Poles, too, are eager to visit Israel.

[Volman] Is that the position of your party or of the new coalition about to be established?

[Kozakiewicz] You must understand that because they are busy with domestic matters, Polish parties do not often deal with foreign policy. As is known, our foreign policy has to date been conducted by the Polish Communist Party, whose orientation was very similar to parties in other communist countries. Their considerations were simple: You in Israel are only 4 million, while the Arabs total 100 million.

[Volman] So what has changed?

[Kozakiewicz] Nothing has changed as far as the facts are concerned, but it was a mistake to make that kind of calculation.

[Volman] In your opinion, how will everyday life change in Poland now?

[Kozakiewicz] Nothing will change with regard to the economic situation. Perhaps if the people have more confidence in the new government, there will be fewer strikes. It is naive to think that there will be miracles. Even if the pope were to become the prime minister of Poland, he would not be able to pull off a miracle.

Two to 3 years are needed to effect economic reforms. The first signs of an alleviation in the food shortages may be discerned within 6 months. If the people support the government and proceed with restraint, there is a chance.

[Volman] Are you not afraid that people's expectations may be excessive?

[Kozakiewicz] People always expect too much, and that is why they may have been disappointed even with the outcome of the last election. They are tired.

Solidarity must try to heal the economy, tighten belts, and make unpopular decisions. This is a heavy responsibility as well as a dangerous situation for Solidarity. Leaders who are prepared to accept such a tough job act out of patriotism. This is a dramatic and spectacular change. How long this psychological momentum will last with the people, nobody knows.

[Volman] How have the Soviets reacted so far?

[Kozakiewicz] The Soviets are not made of one solid bloc. The ruling class has shown understanding. The Soviet ambassador called on me; I gathered from him that if they see no danger to this part of Europe, as far as they are concerned they will follow events and wish us luck. This, of course, as long as we remain loyal to the Warsaw Pact. The Soviets are watching us and testing our loyalty.

On the other hand, nobody knows how long Gorbachev will remain in power, and unpredictable developments might take place in the Soviet Union.

East Bloc, Hong Kong Commercial Attaches Named

TA2208125589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Aug 89 p 3

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Tzvi Zrahya]

[Text] Yesterday, Re'uven Sharon was selected by the Industry and Trade Ministry's committee on appointments abroad as Israel's commercial attache to Hungary and Poland. Sharon, 44, is a graduate of the Hebrew University's Agriculture Faculty, and is currently a food engineer in the Industry and Trade Ministry's Food Division.

Zohar Peri, foreign trade chief in the Industry and Trade Ministry, pointed out that the changes in the East bloc's economic system have enabled Israeli trade activities with firms and trade organizations in East Europe to be strengthened. The decision to appoint a commercial attache to the East bloc was made during Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon's latest visit to East Europe.

Dani Katribas, 36, was chosen by the committee for appointment as commercial attache in Hong Kong. Katribas, currently working for the Industry and Trade Ministry's foreign trade department, is a Hebrew University graduate, and has an M.A. in economics from a British university. During 1982 and 1984 he was Israel's commercial attache in Beirut [as published]. In the past, he served as aide to Gid'on Pat when he was industry and trade minister.

Spokesman on Reported Training of Drug Network

TA2308093189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] In response to reports concerning Israeli citizens training members of a drug network in Colombia, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has announced that if these reports are true, they refer to individuals acting of their own accord. Their activity violates Israeli law and contradicts the Israeli policy of commitment to the war against drugs.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the Ministry is looking into these reports in coordination with other ministries and authorities, and will take all possible measures to prevent such activities.

Military Police Release Data on Investigations

TA2308043689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising], the Military Police have opened 375 files concerning army involvement in the death of Palestinians, and already completed investigation into 325 of them. Of these, some two-thirds have been closed following the conclusion that the deaths were not due to illegal or unwarranted action by the soldiers involved. The figures were released today by the Military Police commander, Brigadier General Shalom Ben-Moshe. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami has more details:

Brig Ben-Moshe says each incident is thoroughly investigated, but he adds, there are cases where the investigation drags because of the difficulties in locating the body for autopsy, getting testimony from Palestinians, or tracing reserve soldiers who have finished their tour of duty and may be out of the country. Nevertheless, he feels that the Military Police are working well and speedily in the circumstances.

Files are opened only where there is clear army involvement, with other cases handled by the police. Since the start of the intifadah, the Military Police have opened 846 files regarding army involvement in deaths, injuries, beatings, or damage to the property of Palestinians. Three hundred seventy-five of the files concern the deaths of 446 people. The files in two-thirds of these cases were closed, and in 16 other cases soldiers were sent for trial. Fifty other files are still open pending the results of continuing investigations.

The Military Police commander was speaking to reporters during a tour of Megiddo Prison, between 'Afula and Hadera. Megiddo, formerly a regular army prison, has been transferred into a holding facility for Palestinians from the territories who are awaiting trial. It's the second largest of six detention centers for Palestinians from the territories and has close to 1,500 detainees held in five compounds inside the prison. The detainees and the reserve soldiers who guard them live in adjacent compounds, all of them sleeping inside large canvas tents.

The Palestinians have their own toilets, showers, and cooking facilities in each compound, and each prisoner is allowed one family visit per month. Lawyers and the International Red Cross visit the prison more frequently.

Since it was turned into a holding center last December, there have been two deaths among the detainees: One of a prisoner who died from dehydration during a hunger strike; the second of a detainee who was shot during a riot.

Only three prisoners have escaped from Megiddo. They escaped together soon after arriving there in January. Since then, says the prison commander, there have been

a number of improvements in security arrangements but also continued improvement for the prisoners and for the convenience of the hundreds of family members who arrive at Megiddo twice a week on visiting days.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 22 August reports on the Megiddo detention center, adding that "the commander of the Military Police said that his men are doing their best not to allow the Megiddo jail to turn into a school for terrorism, so to speak, for the intifadah detainees."

Update on Incidents in Territories 22 Aug

TA2308130789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Aug 89 p 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela'i]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In scattered clashes in the strip yesterday nine other Palestinians were shot and wounded, among them seven-year-old Baraka al-Masri of Bayt Hanun and a 55-year-old merchant who was shot at the entrance to his shop on the Gaza main street, Palestinian sources said.

Traffic across the Erez border checkpoint was scarce yesterday as the self-imposed ban on travelling to Israel continued. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said that about 700 cars crossed the Erez and Nahal 'Oz checkpoints into Israel (compared to several thousands on regular days).

Meanwhile, three Palestinians in Jabalyah, who were collecting recently-issued magnetic cards from residents of the refugee camp, were shot and wounded Sunday in unclear circumstances.

In other West Bank clashes, sources in Tulkarm reported that a 19-year-old was wounded when soldiers riding a commandeered Arab car opened fire after it was stoned. At Zawiyah, on the Trans-Samaria highway, over 20 army and civilian vehicles had their tires punctured on Monday by nails scattered on the road, Palestinians said. Clashes broke out when troops entered the village, and a youth was wounded in the leg, according to local reports.

Troops raided the village of Barta'ah near Jenin, half of which lies inside Israel. Soldiers pursuing youths who fled across the Green Line entered homes on the Israeli side of the village, according to Arab reports. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 23 August, in a page seven report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Yisra'el Peretz, adds that "Arab sources also reported three gunshot wounds in the Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem during incidents which took place 2 days ago. [Violent confrontations between local residents and IDF troops took place 2 days ago in the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camps, and three Tulkarm Arabs were reportedly injured by plastic coated metal marbles."

[The report goes on to say that "the security forces yesterday instructed six families from Jabalyah to evacuate their homes, against which demolition orders have been issued, within 48 hours. These houses were inhabited by members of the strike committees. It has been learned that several rooms are to be partially destroyed in each house.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 23 August reports that "eight Israeli cars were stoned in the Judaean hills near Solomon's pools. No one was hurt but several windshields were smashed. The tires of several Israeli cars were punctured by nails found in the Samarian town of Biddiya; the road passing through the Arab community is used by Jewish settlers in the area.

[In Lod a taxi driver found a firebomb burning on Katzenelson Street. He called the police, police said the firebomb was probably placed there by a terrorist who originally intended to hurl it at a passing car, but was taken by surprise and apparently dropped it and ran. This is the third time that a firebomb was found on Katzenelson Street.]

Further on PLO's 'Arafat's Visit to Amman

Says U.S. Dialogue To Continue

JN2208125089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency president Yasir 'Arafat of the State of Palestine has said: In my name and on behalf of the Palestinian leadership and people I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn for his firm pan-Arab stand toward the Palestinian people and their just cause. His excellency described his talks with his majesty the king as positive and constructive, covering all issues.

Addressing a news conference in Amman this morning, president 'Arafat said the dialogue and coordination with Jordan will continue at the highest levels. He referred to the identity of Jordanian and Palestinian viewpoints on future political moves to further the peace efforts and achieve a just and comprehensive solution guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

President 'Arafat affirmed that the PLO will continue to pursue the peace efforts and the dialogue with the United States despite lack of U.S. response to the Palestinian peace plan, which has become an Arab peace plan after being approved at the Casablanca summit, and the United States' total adoption of Israeli stands. This is in order to convey the Palestinian stand to the American people through official channels, he said.

President 'Arafat said that if the situation continues as it is he will call a meeting of the Palestine National Council to inform it of all the details so it can take whatever measures it deems suitable. President 'Arafat requested the U.S. Administration, the American people, and the international community to put pressure on Israel to make it stop the crimes of murder and starvation which it has begun to carry out collectively and systematically over the past week. During the past 4 days only, 18 martyrs fell, he said. This, he added, is in addition to the magnetic identity cards, which are a flagrant example of the racial discrimination Israel is practicing against our kinfolk in the occupied homeland. He said that the Palestinian people's reply to these terrorist measures was the general strike, where some 140,000 have stopped going to work.

The president of the state of Palestine said that there are still other Palestinian options, such as the continuous general strike and civil disobedience. He affirmed that the intifadah [uprising] will not stop, but will continue to escalate until the Palestinian people's legitimate hopes and aspirations are achieved. He said that the PLO does not intend to issue Palestinian passports despite the Arab League's approval, pointing out that there will be no change in the status of the Jordanian passports which are held by the sons of Palestine. He said the passports will continue as they are at present.

Cited on Dialogue, Ties With Syria

JN2208134289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the situation in the occupied territories is grave, pointing out that 18 Palestinians have been killed there since Saturday. He strongly condemned the Israeli authorities' decision to impose the magnetic cards on Palestinian workers in Gaza, considering it a racist decision. He wondered what U.S. President George Bush thinks of these cards.

'Arafat regretted the fact that the United States has had no reaction to Israel's practices in the occupied territories during the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. It focused on Shamir's plan, ignoring the Palestinian peace plan, which became Arab after the Casablanca summit, he said.

But 'Arafat stressed the need for the continuation of this dialogue because it is the way to make U.S. public opinion and the U.S. Administration understand the position of the PLO. 'Arafat did not rule out the possibility, in case the state of freeze in the peace process continues, that the Palestine National Council be summoned to a new session to study the next moves. There are limits for patience, he said.

'Arafat described his talks with Jordanian King Husayn as positive and constructive and expressed gratitude for the King's firm and committed stand toward the Palestine question.

Asked whether the PLO intends to issue Palestinian passports, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian leadership finds it more suitable not to carry out this project for various considerations, although there exists an Arab League decision to this effect. 'Arafat described the relations between the PLO and Syria as impossible and warned against a plot to displace 500,000 Palestinians from Lebanon to Jordan in pursuance of the resettlement scheme.

More Details of News Conference

JN2308061289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 89 p 1

[By Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—"Patience has a limit," warned Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday, saying that he reserved the right to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC) to reconsider the moderate Palestinian peace strategy if no visible progress in the peace-making process is achieved.

Speaking at a press conference at the guest palace, 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the president of the state of Palestine, said: "I have an obligation towards my people who have the right to know about the conspiracy they are facing. And then it is up to the PNC to decide the policy to be adopted."

'Arafat's remarks clearly reflected a growing frustration over the stagnated peace process, which has come to a rest with an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories. He reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of the plan, which he described as conspiracy hatched by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and criticised the U.S. for its "wholehearted" support for the proposal.

However, he restated that the PLO was willing to accept the proposal if it was part of a comprehensive peace settlement, envisaging free elections under U.N. auspices after Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The PLO chairman also assailed the American administration for its support for Israel and the iron fist policy it is carrying out in the occupied territories to quell the 21-month old intifadah [uprising].

According to 'Arafat, the Shamir plan implies "democratic occupation." He asked: "Can there be a democratic occupation or a non-democratic occupation?"

'Arafat accused Israel of using terrorism, starvation and discrimination against the Palestinian people in a move to implement the Shamir plan.

"Discrimination is explicitly manifested in the new magnetic identity cards which the Israeli government issued for residents of the occupied Gaza Strip," he said. "I pose a question for President (George) Bush: What is your position towards all this? How does the American congress feel about it? Or does human rights end when it comes to Palestinians?"

He spoke feverishly, holding up a card which he said was one of the thousands issued by Israel. He said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly who visited the region earlier this month had defended this "discrimination policy."

"I would like to ask the Americans as well as the entire international community what their position is on this issue? Do they still support Israel? Israel is continuing to receive American aid and arms. Is it not American arms that are killing our people in the occupied lands?"

Commenting on the U.S.-PLO dialogue which started in December last year, he said: "All we get from our talks with America is more concentration on Shamir's election plan, totally ignoring the peace plan which has now become an Arab one after the Casablanca summit."

'Arafat, wearing his traditional military fatigues and keffiyeh as well as a pistol, said the PLO strategy "is not a tactical line: We are looking for peace and a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem."

"We favour a Namibia-style independence plan," he said. "It is an American plan; it is even called the New York agreement. Why not the same style for the Palestinians?"

'Arafat, who held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and other senior Jordanian officials in the past two days, described his talks in Amman as "constructive, fruitful and successful," but would not provide any detail on the substance of the discussions.

Asked whether he had "ordered" the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to use only Jordanian dinars in their dealings in a move to support the Kingdom's currency, he said: "They have always been using the dinar and will continue to do so."

'Arafat appeared to dismiss a Syrian offer to cooperate with Palestinians in armed struggle against Israel and said that he did not receive an official offer from Syria and had only heard it through the media.

However, he said, "am I stopping them? They have (the pro-Syrian Palestinian faction) Al-Sa'iqah; let them do the job. They have (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command leader) Ahmad Jibril; let him do the job. I have my own ways... to implement my political and military tactics."

Pressed further on the issue, whether there were any "political considerations" behind the Syrian offer, 'Arafat said: "I have not received anything officially, I am not in the habit of reacting to media stories."

The PLO leader sidestepped a question on whether the PLO condoned attacks on Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities. "Are you against it?" he asked the questioner. "They are 'quislings.' How many quislings were killed during the Second World War?"

'Arafat warned against what he described as a plot to deport half a million Palestinian families from Lebanon. The plot, he said, has already started with the expulsions of 85 families from Wadi al-Zaynah and Al-Jiyah south of Beirut.

The PLO chairman, who arrived here Sunday and reopened the offices of the Palestine National Fund Monday, left for an undisclosed destination later Tuesday.

Reopens Bank, Talks With King

JN2208090089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 89 p 1

[Excerpts] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat Monday reopened the offices of the Palestine National Fund (PNF) amidst the cheering of hundreds of jubilant people, marking the return to the Jordanian capital of a key Palestinian institution after a three-year closure. [passage omitted]

Monday's PNF opening ceremony, which coincided with the 21st anniversary of an arson attempt at Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem came amid PLO moves to help the Jordanian economy. A Palestinian source quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS last week said that 'Arafat had ordered the Palestinians living in the occupied territories to shun the Israeli shekel and use the Jordanian dinar in all their dealings in a bid to boost the Kingdom's currency.

In addition, the functioning of the PNF in Amman is also expected to be a contribution to Jordan's efforts at addressing its economic situation according to analysts.

PNF Director Jawid al-Ghusayn, also a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told reporters at Monday's ceremony that the 1989 budget of the fund, the central body that controls all PLO finances, totalled $274 million.

"The fund would reflect positively on the economic cooperation between Jordan and the PLO, although the PLO's budget constitutes a small part of the Jordanian economy," he said.

Palestinian officials quoted by different news agencies also voiced hope that the moving of the PNF back to Amman would reflect positively on the Jordanian economy.

According to a Palestinian source quoted by the AP, 'Arafat, during his meeting with the King Sunday, had requested Jordan to abolish a restriction imposed last year on the issuance of Jordanian passports to Palestinians living in the occupied territories. The restriction, which followed Jordan's severance of formal links with the West Bank, limited the validity of the passport to two years while the regular duration is five years. There was no immediate official government comment on the request.

'Arafat chaired a closed meeting Monday with the PLO Executive Committee members to discuss the structural organisation of the PNF and how it would function to channel funds to the Palestinians living in the occupied land, informed sources said.

The PLO chairman also met with members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) living in Amman. No immediate details were available on the talks, but it was expected that the PLO chairman would brief them on the outcome of a general congress the mainstream PLO faction Fatah held in Tunis earlier this month. [passage omitted]

UNRWA Workers Seek Help on Pay

JN2208091889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 89 p 3

[By Lima Nabil, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Excerpt] Amman—Employees working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) staged a one-day strike Monday to back demand for better pay and sought help from Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Jordan, to help settle their pay dispute with the agency.

'Arafat told a group representing the 6,000 agency employees in Jordan that he backed their demands and would discuss the question with the UNRWA Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli in the coming week.

The employees, represented by their elected committee, met 'Arafat at the Guest Palace in Amman and briefed him on the whole situation, their demands for better pay to improve their living conditions and the expected survey UNRWA had promised to conduct in the coming month before deciding on any increases in salaries.

The one-day strike they said came as a second action following a sit-in protest staged 10 days ago at the UNRWA headquarters in Amman.

The strike entailed a total stoppage of work at the headquarters, schools, health centres operated by UNRWA and other services offered to the Palestinian refugees. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs 22 Aug

JN2208175689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] His Excellency president Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine left Amman this evening. Upon his departure at Amman airport, his excellency the president was seen off by His Excellency Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, prime minister; Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs; the Amman governor; the Amman mayor; the director of Public Security; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and a number of senior officials.

Also on hand to see 'Arafat off were PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Palestinian Ambassador in Amman 'Umar al-Khatib.

People Receive Badran Appointment 'With Relief'

JN2008092289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Mudar Badran will today assume his responsibilities as chief of the Jordanian Royal Hashemite Court in accordance with a decree issued by King Husayn. Badran will succeed Dhuqan al-Hindawi, who will run in the parliamentary elections.

Observers consider Badran's return to the political scene after 5 years absence an indication of the regime's inability to wipe out nepotism and corruption. [sentence as heard]

Badran previously held this important post in the country in the early seventies. Prior to 1984 Badran formed the Jordanian government many times. He is known for his frankness and firm decisions. He struck the dens of corruption in government departments with an iron fist. During his administration, Jordan witnessed economic prosperity and a drop in the rate of inflation.

The people received the news of Badran's return to the limelight with relief and trust, especially following the government's recent measures and reforms.

King Accepts Airline Director's Resignation

JN1808155889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has accepted the resignation of Royal Jordanian Executive Director 'Ali Ghandur. His majesty sent a letter to Ghandur in which he said he is accommodating Ghandur's wish that he be allowed to retire. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn conferred on 'Ali Ghandur the al-Nahda medal of the first order and asked him to serve as adviser on civial aviation, tourism, and air transport.

Ghandur had sent a letter to his majesty the king requesting that he be allowed to make room for the generation that the leader of the homeland, His Majesty King Husayn, has groomed to carry on the march by assuming the directorship of Royal Jordanian.

New Airline Chief Appointed

JN2308070889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that Husam Abu-Ghazalah has been appointed director general of Royal Jordanian. Abu-Ghazalah joined Royal Jordanian in 1987 as deputy director of engineering and maintenance affairs, and was appointed deputy executive director in June this year.

Al-Jalabi Removed From Bank Management Committee

JN2008122889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—The Economic Security Committee [ESC] has issued a decision removing Dr Ahmad al-Jalabi from the management committee of the Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank. The decision comes after Dr al-Jalabi left the country illegally.

The Jordanian news agency has learned that the ESC has received from the management committee of the mentioned banks preliminary reports indicating that the ESC's decision of 3 August 1989, which merged Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank, has been implemented appropriately and that the two banks respected their obligations to depositors with all confidence. The reports also indicate that the two banks are also carrying out their banking duties and offering services in a positive manner and in a cooperative spirit with their regular and newest clients.

Regarding the background of the decision to merge the Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank and the reasons behind the decision, an ESC source said that the merger decision was based on recommendations from the Central Bank of Jordan in which it explained that there was an apparent error in the legal percentages specified by the law and regulations, particularly the percentage of cash reserves on deposits in local and foreign currency.

The source also said: Through its decision, the ESC aimed to deal with the structure of the two banks and strengthen the position of the capital and reserves by providing the means and tools to curtail expenses and coordinate efforts. By providing the necessary liquidity and the financial support from the Central Bank of Jordan to the two banks, the ESC aimed to protect the depositors' savings and rights at the two banks.

Hizballah on 'Blow' To Answer French Scorn

NC2308100789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The dominant topic of conversation in Lebanon today is how the French have stepped in to give backing and protection to the Maronites. The Lebanese have grown accustomed to such occurences and even to greater interference. This is why, notwithstanding the great hopes of the French president and Army, the news of the French naval parade was taken so lightly and treated with contempt in this country.

The Lebanese can hardly be alarmed by fleets or frightened by the Super Etendards, the planes that had failed their first test. What bothers the Lebanese is the French scorn for other peoples intellect and powers of reasoning. It is the Parisian talk about assistance being transferred aboard warships, a la Francaise, that the Lebanese find aggravating and of which they are furiously contemptuous. This is why a consensus has developed among ordinary citizens as well as the countrys leaders that a blow should be dealt to the French inside and outside Lebanon, a blow commensurate to the Elysees' lack of respect for Lebanese Muslims. A lesson is in order for these arrogant types, who should learn how to stay away from a country that shook off their yoke a long time ago. [passage omitted]

These days, we witness Satanic alliances among Western powers and reactionary Arabs. But Muslims are capable of turning these same times into the last days for the criminal Maronite regime which has turned our land into an assembly point for the historical enemies of our people and our country into an ungovernable territory and a favorite haunt for an assortment of muscle-flexing and chest-beating Westerners and Zionists.

With God on our side, and our martyrdom-loving people ready to sacrifice, we will not let our country remain a free-for-all forever. We will no longer allow our dignity to be slurred and our sanctities to be compromised. We will not allow a new imperialist to overrun us under any pretext.

It is the duty of all those who can take up arms to stand up and be counted, to defend their very existence, and to silence the guns of the enemies wherever these are. It is unacceptable to condone a criminal who takes pleasure in killing children and women. Such a criminal must not be allowed to go on living after having taken the lives of hundreds of people. It is time to liberate this country of madmen. This, and only this, is our current task.

Hizballah Said To Plan Suicide Air Bombings

NC2308052789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The French aircraft carrier Foch is due to arrive today off Lebanon's shores. Citing french authoritative sources, the newspaper AL-DIYAR says that France has asked Israel not to send its planes on missions over the Lebanese shores, particularly not close to the French naval units as of midday today, for French units are on alert and may fire at any approaching plane.

The same paper says that Hizballah has asked Damascus to allow it to use small planes, taking off from al-Biqa' or Beirut Airport, to carry out suicide operations against the French naval units. The paper mentions that Tehran had trained elements of Hizballah to carry out this kind of operation.

Officials Threaten Response

LD2208132289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The French military provocations in Lebanese waters, which are perpetrated in accordance with the conspiracy hatched by the United States and the Zionist regime, continue to be strongly criticized by Lebanese religious and political figures.

According to a Central News Unit report Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, the leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, in a speech publicized by the Beirut press today, referred to French military provocations in Lebanon. He stressed: The only course of action for the Muslims is that of the self-sacrificing devotees of Islam.

He said that France's aim was to safeguard the interests of the Maronites and support their plan to create a second Israel in Lebanon. He stressed: The extensive Islamic and National Front of Lebanon is the answer to the honorable ideals of Lebanon.

The Central News Unit also reports: Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, Lebanon's Ja'farite mufti, said in a gathering in the town of (?Sarba), in southern Lebanon, French military interference in Lebanon will not be unanswered. Those who drove France out of Lebanon with the weapon of martyrdom are capable of inflicting another defeat on that colonialist country.

He added: France should know that military intervention in Lebanon would result in the country's dissection, or destruction. The French authorities had better bring pressure to bear on Michel 'Awn and his allies to pave the way for the resolving of the crisis in the country, through political reform in the Lebanese system.

Also according to this report, the Nasiri Khalq Organization, led by Mustafa Sa'd, issued a statement strongly attacking France for her biased policy on Lebanon. He called for the withdrawal of the French Navy from Mediterranean waters.

The statement stresses: The provocations by France, the United States and some Arab regimes, such as Iraq, are aimed out besieging Islamic and National Forces to pave the way for compromising with the Zionist regime.

PFLP, DFLP Criticize French Naval Buildup

JN2308062589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have joined the caravan of those denouncing the French initiative in Lebanon. They issued two separate statements in Beirut sharply criticizing France's decision to dispatch seven warships to the eastern Mediterranean.

The DFLP considered the French initiative as blatant interference aimed at fostering the conflict in Lebanon and turning attention away from the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory.

The PFLP considered the French military movement in the Mediterranean as aimed at supporting General Michel 'Awn's forces.

Junblatt Interviewed on French Role

NC2308094789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt has emphasized that if France wants to come to partition Lebanon and protect the Maronites, then Lebanon as an independent entity will disintegrate. Walid Junblatt described the arrival of the French vessels as serious, noting that the alliance grouping France, Iraq, and Arab reaction represents the basic axis for protecting Christian privileges in Lebanon and for setting up a smaller Lebanon, which means the partition of Lebanon and, consequently, partition of the region.

In an interview published in Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, Junblatt said: We will fight this alliance with all our strength. He warned certain Arab circles against embracing this alliance, because ethnic and and religious divisions will affect everyone.

'Awn Wants France To 'Intervene Militarily'

AU2308006589 Paris AFP in English 0300 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Aug 23 (AFP)—Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn said in an interview published here Wednesday that he hoped France would intervene militarily in Lebanon, but he would refrain from formally requesting it to do so.

Gen. 'Awn told the daily FRANCE-SOIR that he expected the eight French warships which are steaming towards Lebanon to be put "at my disposal, if only to guarantee freedom of navigation in territorial waters".

The French Government says that its warships, which include the aircraft carrier "Foch," are on a humanitarian mission, but Moslem extremists who claim to be holding U.S. citizens hostage in Lebanon have threatened to kill their captives unless the flotilla is withdrawn.

Lebanon's Moslem militias, backed by some 35,000 Syrian troops, have been blockading the coast of Lebanon since early March to prevent arms supplies reaching beleaguered Christian areas held by Gen. 'Awn's forces.

The Christian leader told FRANCE-SOIR that he had received "a small quantity of ammunition" from France and from Iraq in the past two months.

He added that he hoped that France would intervene militarily in Lebanon, but said that he did not wish to "compromise" France by making an official "Lebanese request" that it do so.

Abu-al-Lama' Decries 'Clamor' on French Aid

NC2208190989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Faruq Abu-al-Lama', secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, has expressed surprise at the clamor raised by Syria and its allies regarding the dispatch of the aircraft carrier "Foch" with humanitarian aid. He recalled that the ship "Penhors" which was carrying an EC grant was shelled for 2 months and could not dock in order to deliver the aid it was carrying.

Abu-al-Lama' also voiced astonishment at the campaign against the visit which his holiness the pope intends to make to Lebanon and commented: When Mr Velayati and 10,000 fighters want to come to Lebanon, we must not utter a word, but when a major spiritual leader who leads 800 million Catholics visits for the sake of establishing peace for all the Lebanese people, all hell breaks loose.

Abu-al-Lama' emphasized that we are no longer a Syrian protectorate, especially after the formation of the six-member committee and later the tripartite committee, and finally the issuance of the UN Security Council statement.

Responding to statements by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, Abu-al-Lama' said: The Christians have had deep roots in the East for nearly 2,000 years and no one, Junblatt or any other, can uproot them.

Commenting on a statement by White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, Abu-al-Lama' said that French aid and moves are going on with or without Sununu's approval.

AL-ANWAR on Soviet-U.S.-Saudi Plan

NC2308084289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] AL-ANWAR newspaper today cites Saudi political sources as saying that a Saudi-Soviet-U.S. move is currently being carried out toward Damascus. The paper adds that Saudi businessman Rafiq al-Hariri has conveyed a 4-point Saudi plan to the Syrian leaders. The plan provides for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon, elimination of all blockades, halting war throughout Lebanon, and commencing a political dialogue through the triupartite Arab committee.

AL-ANWAR goes on to say that Al-Hariri is currently in Damascus to convince the Syrian officials to accept this plan.

French-U.S.-UK Military Coordination Cited

NC2308123989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] According to reports available today, France has informed Damascus that it has no intention to launch any military action against any party in Lebanon, including the Syrian Army. A Syrian official has told the French charge d'affaires in damascus that these assurances are not sufficient, for the Syrian leadership believes that the mere arrival of the aircraft carriers and other warships will drive General Michel 'Awn to further positions of intransigence regarding Syria and its allies.

The French charge d'affaires said that the French naval units will not use their weapons except in cases of self-defense, or if the evacuation of Frenchmen is obstructed, or if the existing balance of power is violated, such as by the infiltration of any front [ikhtiraq ihda al-jabahat]. [passage omitted]

According to press reports, the French ships which will assemble near the Lebanese coast are coordinating with the U.S. 6th Fleet and its radars in Cyprus which are capable of detecting any planes approaching the warships.

The same reports say that an operations room has been set up at the British Akrotiri Base and includes U.S., French, and British officers. According to the same reports, the UK base in Cyprus has been put on alert, and UK planes are on a state of readiness to back up French planes in the event of an air battle.

Leftists, Palestinians on Alert; Syrians Entrench

NC2208174189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] According to reports from Rashayya al-Wadi, a state of top alert is prevailing in the ranks of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party, and the Palestinian factions whose members are deployed in this area extending from 'Ayn 'Ata, al-Khalwah, and the western slopes of Mount Hermon to the southeast of the village of Rashayya al-Wadi. The members of these organizations have reinforced their advanced positions opposite the border zone with heavy weapons and military vehicles.

Meanwhile, intensive movements have been monitored among the Syrian forces deployed in eastern al-Biqa', particularly on the Hasbayya-al-Masna' road. The Syrians have erected earth ramparts and dug trenches near the village of Darh al-Ahmar and the Kafr Mishki junction.

Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Popular Nasirite Organization, had earlier called on his gunmen to remain in a state of readiness to confront any action by the South Lebanese Army and Israeli forces on the Kafr Falus lines.

Reinforcements Reported on Fronts Facing Christians

NC2208201789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] AFP quoted sources in the security departments tonight as saying that troop and weapons reinforcements have been deployed on all the fronts facing the Christian area in Beirut, the Mountain, and the North. The sources added that Hizballah in particular has declared a state of alert in the ranks of its members in al-Biqa' and noted that Druze leader Walid Junblatt held two meetings with fundamentalist officials in this area in the past 48 hours.

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South

NC2308084889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] In the resisting South, the Israeli forces have occupied Bir al-Huruf in western al-Biqa', 3 km north of the occupied border strip. Six tanks and Flail tanks and well over 50 troops were spotted in the area yesterday. Reports from the border area said that the occupation forces have brought armored reinforcements to the Marj 'Uyun region within the past 24 hours. The Israeli reinforcements include tanks, armored personnel carriers, and fuel tanks.

Clashes Reported on Mountain Lines

NC2208193489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Yarzah cliques have expanded the scope of their acts of aggression. They bombarded 'Alayh, al-'Ibadiyah, Duhur al-'Ibadiyah, and Shwit. In the meantime, they fired flares on the combat lines from 'Alayh up to Baysur and Kayfun, where shells also fell. The positions held by the nationalist forces returned fire to silence its sources, and shells fell in B'abda, al-Hadath,

and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Sporadic clashes are continuing on the Southern Suburb comabt lines. They have left one child dead and three injured.

Clashes Resume in Beirut; Al-Matn Shelled

NC2208194689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Security was disrupted again at about 2200 tonight on the Primo, al-Barjawi, and Sodeco combat lines where clashes with artillery and rockets are still taking place. Meanwhile shells are falling on residential neighborhoods close to the contact lines, particularly the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah. At 2130 'Ayn al- Rummanah came under intermittent shelling. A number of flares were fired over residential areas in al-Hadath.

Fighting with machineguns and rockets occurred along the confrontation lines extending from the Old Sidon Road and Galerie Sim'an to Saqy al-Hadath and al-Laylakah between 1945 and 2115. Clashes with machineguns and rockets also occurred on the Sodeco, Primo, and al-Barjawi lines at the same time.

The Syrians also fired a number of shells on the outskirts of al-Hadath, the vicinity of the Presidential Palace in B'abda, the approaches to 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and the coast of northern al-Matn.

The Lebanese Army responded to the sources of fire in West Beirut where, according to reports, two people have been wounded.

Guarded Calm; 22 Aug Casualties Reported

NC2308070489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Guarded calm prevails over the combat lines of Beirut, the Suburb, and the Mountain following a night of violent clashes in which various types of weapons were used and shells fell on residential neighborhoods. [passage omitted] Five people were killed and 60 wounded in last night's fighting.

Unidentified Helicopters Overfly Lebanese Areas

NC2308093289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] REUTER news agency has cited security sources as saying that 6 unidentified military helicopters overflew the area between Beirut and Sidon between 0600 and 0700 this morning. This is the first time unidentified helicopters have flown over this area.

VOL Reports Syrian Casualties in Lebanon

NC2208140889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Informed security sources have revealed to the Voice of Lebanon that the Lebanese Army's retaliation against the Syrian forces' positions and artillery emplacements between 13 August, the date of the abortive invasion attempt of Suq al-Gharb, and 19 August left 55 dead in the ranks of the Syrian forces in addition to scores of wounded. [passage omitted]

People arriving from Damascus have reported that the al-Asad hospital in the Syrian capital was evacuated of sick civilians and earmarked for the Syrian soldiers who were wounded in Lebanon's battles, as the Tishrin hospital could no longer receive new casualties. [passage omitted]

According to a security report, 10 trucks and a BM-21 rocket launcher were burned as a result of the Lebanese Army's retaliation against the Syrian positions in Bi'r Hasan 2 days ago. [passage omitted]

Within the framework of the continued arrival of Syrian Army reinforcements in Lebanon, it has been reported that four Syrian tank transporters have entered Lebanese territory in the past few hours. They carried new Syrian tanks to replace the damaged ones.

Meanwhile, security and maritime sources have denied a statement by Brigadier General al-Khatib's command this morning and another by the joint operations room of the nationalist forces this afternoon to the effect that they hit one maritime target out of six which attempted to approach the eastern coast at 0415 today. These sources noted that the Syrian forces supply little information to its allies both in the joint operations room and Brig Gen al-Khatib about the results of the shelling which these forces carry out directly against the maritime targets. According to informed security sources, the Syrian forces use sophisticated types of Soviet-made radars in directing their shells at the ships. They are of the types (Skillheat) and (Topthrough), which could only be found with the Syrian Army, and specifically the Syrian Navy. It has also been learned that the Syrian forces also use a Soviet-made sophisticated land radar to direct the 130-mm guns which are installed at the al-Nahdah recreation grounds and 'Ayn al-Muraysah in West Beirut and in Sil'ata on the al-Batrun coast. They are of the (Tightscretch) type. These are also of the types which are only in use with Syrian Army in Lebanon.

Attempt on Aleppo Governor's Life Noted
JN2208122089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] It has been reported from Damascus that tension prevails in Aleppo Governorate following the Syrian security forces' failure to curtail the escalation of Syrian armed resistance operations. Reports said that Aleppo Governor 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mashariqah miraculously escaped an assassination attempt when an armed group representing the nationalist Syrian resistance opened fire on him. Observers believe that the escalation of the Syrian resistance' armed operations in Aleppo, which is considered the stronghold of nationalist resistance, and other Syrian cities, confirms the indignation felt toward the anti-Arab dictatorial regime of Hafiz al-Asad.

Franjiyah Praises Republic's Lebanon Position
JN2008120489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0836 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 20 Aug (SANA)—Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah has strongly denounced the dirty war that Israel's agents are waging against Lebanon and the Lebanese people with the Iraqi regime's support and the flagrant connivance of the Zionist entity with the aim of implementing the plot to destroy and fragment Lebanon and transform it into another Israel.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published here today, Franjiyah noted that the Lebanese crisis is an intra-Lebanese and not a Lebanese-Syrian one as some allege. It is a struggle between a minority that has sold itself to the devil and an absolute majority that continues to adhere to this country's unity, Arab identity, and special relations with Syria.

Franjiyah asserted that Syria made and continues to make great sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon and is confronting with rare courage the fierce Zionist plot in order to save Lebanon from its plight and lead it to safety.

The former Lebanese president praised Syria's pan-Arab role and the role of the Syrian forces, which are present in Lebanon to defend it and the entire Arab nation. Franjiyah stated that had it not been for Syria and President al-Asad's historic leadership, the Zionist threat would have reached all the Arabs and Israel would have realized its hegemonistic plans against the Arab land.

Cooperation Pledged on Casablanca Resolutions
JN1908152689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Esteemed listeners. A major informational drive has accompanied 'Awn's destructive war. The media campaign, launched by all the parties extending to 'Awn succor and help to implement the mission entrusted to him, seeks to suppress Lebanon's nationalist face and erase its Arab identity as well as to liquidate the proponents of the country's Arab personality. The informational barrages have so increased as to have virtually drowned the thud of bombs in a campaign of distortion to turn facts around and confuse Arab public opinion regarding the truth of what is going on. Perhaps one of the most brazen falsehoods is the allegation that Syrian forces took part in the Suq al-Gharb fighting despite Syria's disclaimers and its challenge to the authors of the charge to come up with evidence of minimal Syrian involvement or produce even one of purported prisoners that were said to have been captured. The aim of these falsehoods is obvious: Those who see themselves fighting Syria's pan-Arab presense in Lebanon are bound to bring up Syria's name at every turn with a view to canceling out the influence and role of nationalist forces in the Lebanese arena and their legitimate demands that the country be structured on sound foundations and according to an even-handed formula. 'Awn's backers are inciting him to further exacerbate the situation so they will have further justification to involve themselves more deeply in the Lebanese question. They cloak their interference with false pretenses of humanitarian considerations.

The Zionists of Tel Aviv and the rulers of Baghdad, along with others ensconced in major capitals overseas, are now being immeasurably moved by the killings and devastation wrought in Lebanon. They choose to forget that it was thanks to them that the Lebanese situation has reached the brink of the abyss. They have formed a chorus lamenting Lebanon's plight. The question arises as to the ulterior motives for the commiseration of this chorus, whose crimes are a disgrace to all humanity. Have they grown conscience-stricken considering their outrages in the Lebanese arena while they remain unmoved as they carry on their oppression of Palestinian nationalists in the occupied territories—killing them and breaking their limbs? In the meantime, without the slightest compunction, they are using chemical weapons against their countrymen in Halabjah, killing thousands in a single stroke. Or could it be that their humanitarian sentiments are invoked or withheld according to how they feel in the tradition of the colonial powers that arrived in our countries to kill, destroy, and annihilate in the name of transferring civilization and progress to us?

Would that these mourners had spared their tears for humanitarian motives only. Then the picture would have looked less repugnant and revolting. The irony is that Saddam, raising pan-Arab slogans, has made common cause with Israel, professing humanitarian considerations for backing and arming 'Awn and urging him to pursue his war against the majority of the Lebanese. What is there in common between Saddam Husayn's nationalist sentiments translated into arming 'Awn, and Shamir and Rabin's warning of what they call the Syrian threat to Lebanon and the Zionist defense minister's

statement that Israel has nothing to fear from the Iraqi ruler's arms shipments to 'Awn and his praise for the latter's steadfastness against the nationalist forces and their ally, Syria?

True, Saddam's rancor toward Syria and its people and the Lebanese nationalists is no less intense than Israel's. It is farfetched, though, that their common rancor is rooted in concern for the well-being of Lebanon's Arab character and pan-Arab connection. So, there must be factors other than humanitarian considerations touted by lamentors who profess concern for Lebanon's interests and the pious pan-Arab considerations mouthed by Saddam. They are the factors that all the backers of 'Awn and company rally around as they stand against Lebanon's nationalist forces and Syria.

There is a major drive of distortion, misrepresentation, and hypocrisy going on. Nonetheless, nothing will succeed in confusing Arab public opinion regarding which parties are fighting for the Arabism of Lebanon and against a Zionist scheme to break up the country. The party that moves to foil conspiracies targeting Lebanon will naturally stand up against all capitulationist projects meant to be peddled in the region. Syria has always worked to forestall the proponents of military and security escalation and supported all efforts toward a political resolution of the Lebanese crisis and remains committed to this position. Along with all Lebanon's nationalist forces, Syria keeps an open mind toward whatever sincere Arab efforts are made to promote a solution. It was not Syria that closed the door to Arab efforts. If anything, Syria has kept the door open and declares that it still is open to a resumption of such efforts. Syria vows that, just as it has done all along, it will give the Arabs every cooperation and support to promote the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Palestine Broadcast on Justice in Treating Arabs

JN1408210089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 89

[From the Palestine Broadcast: "Spotlight"]

[Text] When a Lebanese political leader says that he is ready to move and cooperate with anyone to close the hostage file on the condition that the whole file is closed—in other words, he means that within the operation of closing this file, the file of prisoners in the occupied territories must be closed, as well as those in al-Khiyam prison and in West and East Beirut—then he is in fact proposing a just demand to confront those who do not feel there is a problem when they hold tens of thousands of Arabs as hostages, prisoners, detainees, or administrative detainess. They are ignoring Israel's continuous crimes and justifying them. At the same time, they do not ignore issues when the victim or hostage is an Israeli.

So long as imprisoning the freedom of a human being is a crime, which is the case, those who believe in this should admit that Israel is the greatest criminal since it is confining the freedom of the largest number of people and attacking the lives and safety of millions of people. Not even lactating infants, who have not yet reached the weaning age, are spared from its evil.

Why is Israel not asked immediately to release all prisoners, detainees, and those administratively detained? What Israel is doing is taking security measures to confront those protesting against the occupation. Does this mean that they view the occupation as something legitimate and protesting against it is seen as illegitimate? Why shouldn't the occupation of the territories of any country in the world or the imprisonment of the freedom of any person in world be legitimate so long as they [not further identified] justify Israel's occupation of Arab land, oppression of the Arab people, and restricting their freedom; nay, even using murder weapons against them.

A principle is always a principle. The Arab is a human being like every other from any ethnic identity, color, or creed. Work should be undertaken to put an end to the tortures of human beings so that justice will be effected amongst human beings, not so that some of them tyrannize others.

Information Minister Leaves for Tunis Meetings

JN2308101989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0912 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Aug (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman left Damascus today for Tunis to attend the meetings of the council of Arab information ministers due to begin in Tunis tomorrow, Thursday. The Arab information permanent committee concluded its meeting in Tunis today and approved a set of recommendations to be submitted to the Arab information ministers' council.

Afghanistan

Government Denounces Defection of Security Chief

BK2208113789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, Aug 22 (AFP)—The Kabul government Tuesday denounced President Najibullah's head of security for defecting to the mujahidin resistance, saying the general could no longer be considered an Afghan.

"We consider him no longer an Afghan," said Foreign Office spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani about General Muhammad Faruq Zarif, who announced his defection at a press conference in the Pakistani city of Peshawar Sunday.

"Everyone has the right to make up his own mind," Mr. Amani told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "But he was a general and he has left his country."

The state-controlled Kabul media has remained silent over the affair. Most Afghans aware of the defection said they heard the news on Radio Pakistan.

Gen. Zarif, whose brother Farid Zarif was a former Afghan representative to the United Nations, said he defected with his wife and children two months ago because the "Kabul regime has failed to serve the Afghan people." [passage omitted] The one-star general was head of the Presidential Security Staff. [passage omitted]

Najibullah on Resignation, U.S. 'Terrorism'

BK2208140089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 22 Aug 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 22 (AFP)—President Najibullah on Tuesday [22 August] rejected suggestions that his resignation would end the war in Afghanistan and called on next month's non-aligned summit to condemn what he said was increased U.S. and Pakistani intervention in the conflict.

"Instead of talking about removing this or that personality, let us talk about how to settle the problem," Mr. Najibullah told a press conference. He said he was "well aware" of the calls to step down but added that talk of a transfer of power from his Soviet-backed government to the mujahidin had been based on "highly exaggerated predictions, and politically motivated."

"If there was a guarantee of peace, we would be ready to give up not only our posts but our lives," he told the two-hour press conference, attended by foreign and local journalists at the presidential palace here. "But this is to ignore the objective realities... I say individuals are not important" to the peace process, he added.

The U.S. special envoy to the mujahidin, Peter Tomsen, said last month the United States, Pakistan and the resistance stood for a political settlement that would transfer power away from Kabul's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

Mr. Najibullah said that in the six months since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan the mujahidin had fallen into disarray and Kabul's Army had "proved its identity... and shown who stands for peace and who for war."

He charged the United States and Pakistan with drastic increases in military supplies to guerrilla forces in Afghanistan, and said he hoped the non-aligned summit in Belgrade next month would focus on foreign intervention in the war. "I think that it (the summit) will be unanimous," Mr. Najibullah said. "I think that the United States and Pakistan will be urged not to contribute to tension in the region." He accused Washington of "international terrorism", and said world opinion was shaping up in such a way that President George Bush's administration "would realize the futility of continuation of war (in Afghanistan)."

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said last week the Najibullah government hoped to be able to use any advantage gained at the Belgrade summit to pressure Washington during the U.N. General Assembly session at the end of September.

Washington said last month it was stepping up aid to the rebels to counter what it described as "unprecedented" levels of military supplies pouring into Kabul from the Soviet Union. Kabul and Moscow in turn have accused the United States of supplying the rebels with anti-personnel cluster rockets, one of which was fired on Kabul last week leaving nine civilians dead.

Moscow maintains that its aid to the Najibullah government is covered by past treaty obligations, and not ruled out by the U.N.-brokered 1988 Geneva accords, which paved the way for the Soviet pullout.

Neutral diplomats here say the Afghan Government, while trying to maintain its military hold on the ground, hopes in New York to be able to push the United Nations to play a larger role in enforcing the Geneva agreements.

"They do not do a good job in this," Mr. Najibullah said Tuesday, echoing the complaints of other members of his government who say the United Nations has done nothing to check aid coming to the mujahidin through Pakistan. "Hopefully the United Nations can play its role more actively," he said.

"It should be said that (since the Soviet withdrawal) the activity of the U.N. has been slowed down... as a result of the political intervention and militarist theories of some international forces," the president added.

Showing obvious impatience with the rebels who have repeatedly rejected his offers to form a broad-based government, Mr. Najibullah said they now should be called "terrorists" and not "mujahidin or freedom fighters." He repeated assertions that he had many private contacts with mujahidin groups wanting to end the war, but said he could not reveal their names.

On another, diplomatic, front, Mr. Najibullah conceded that his government had failed to woo back the embassies from non-Warsaw Pact countries which pulled out of Kabul weeks before the Soviet pullout. "Perhaps more time will be needed by the governments of the West to recognize the new realities," Mr. Najibullah said, adding that when the Western missions returned they would be welcomed.

BAKHTAR Notes Najibullah News Conference

LD2308082989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 22, BAKHTAR—The events and incidents of over one year—the process following the signing of the Geneva accords—showed that in spite of the honesty of the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in strict observance of the accords, peaceful proposal as well as reflexible [as received] approaches on political solution of the issue around Afghanistan, the situation in the country still remains tense, said President Najibullah in his brief speech delivered today in a press conference held in Delkosha presidential palace in which a large number of home as well as foreign journalists took part.

In past six months following the pull-out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, heads of the armed opposition in Pakistani soil, under the instructions of U.S.-Pak spying network, established the so-called interim government in Rawalpindi, by the staging of plan of its transfer inside Afghanistan with the vast participation of regular forces of Pakistani militia, Saudi Wahhabis, organized big invasions on Afghan cities such as Khowst, Qandahar, and Jalalabad, said Najibullah in his statement.

The U.S. with the aim of the intensification of anti-Afghan war and ever further direct organization of this interference and invasion, sent Peter Tomsen, her special diplomat to Pakistan. P. Tomsen by promising supplying new advanced and destructive weapons to the opposition, provided ground for further killing of Afghans.

It proves that the U.S. which apparantly speaks on political solution of the Afghan issue, in fact allow itself to change itself into one of the sides involved in war, stated Najibullah.

But in spite of all these mad attempts, the process in national and international area are in the interest of the Afghan people and government. Internal clashes among the leaders of extremists, weakness of the so-called transitional government, and differences among the heads of extremists and internal commanders about invasions on cities and killing defenceless citizens are other causes which changed public opinions vis-a-vis these unknown government of extremists and political solution of Afghan issue. The government of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] and its armed forces faced with a full-fledged foreign interferences and invasions, with the continuation of national reconciliation policy and with firm belief in ensurance of peace through dialogue and accord, have proved their powerfulness against interventionists and war-mongers and enjoy full support of masses.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) for the cessation of war and ensurance of peace and for the creation of a broad coalition of forces in the country have sought all probable ways and means. It not only supports plans and initiatives of a number of countries and the UN who are supporting peaceful solution of the Afghan problem but, also with the putting forward of new proposals including proposal on creation of a "Steering Council", has approved its loyalty to the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation and peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The state of the RA besides these peaceful proposals once again expresses its readiness to assess any kind of initiatives and proposals of the otherside for the cessation of war and ensurance of peace in the country. The state of the RA is in firm belief that observance of the provisions of the Geneva accords and resolution of the 43rd sessions of the UN General Assembly could prove their effectiveness for the cessation of war and peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Najibullah Receives Congratulatory Messages

LD2308084689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 22, BAKHTAR—Congratulatory messages addressed to Najibillah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] on the occasion of 70th anniversary of regaining independence of Afghanistan marked on August 19, have reached Kabul from Erich Honecker, chairman of the State Council and president of the Democratic Republic of Germany (GDR), Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Czechoslovakia Communist Party and Gustav Husak, president of Czechoslovakia Socialist Republic.

While expressing best felicitation on the occasion, the messages stress that, we firmly believe that, political solution of regional conflicts is the only alternative. Therefore, we optimistically and seriously follow the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, proclaimed by party and state leadership of the RA.

The message express the hope that the existing friendly relations between the said countries and; the RA based on the spirit of friendship and solidarity, will be further developed.

Besides, progressive forces and social organizations of the Masacarai state of Italy addressed to President Najibullah have been received to Kabul on Monday on the said ground in which they expressed their support from peaceful policy pursuits by the RA as well as the righteous cause of the Afghan people.

Likewise congratulatory messages addressed to Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the executive committee of the ministers of the RA have reached Kabul from Ladislav Adamec prime minister of Czechoslovakia and Willi Stoph chairman of Council of Ministers of the GDR, on the said occasion.

Rebels Attack; Army Retaliates in Jalalabad
LD2108094189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1605 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] In the course of mopping up and search operations which were carried out in the outskirts of Jalalabad city, 117 mortar shells, 88 rocket launchers, and a large number of heavy machinegun shells were seized from the extremists supported by Pakistan. An authoritive Armed Forces source reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section that the joint forces of the enemy, with the support of the artillery fire of the Pakistan's XI Corps, fired on security posts and residential areas around Jalalabad city yesterday [19 August].

The brave Armed Forces units and companies stationed in that area, who defend the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, responded to their attacks. As a result of retaliatory attacks, 27 enemies were crushed. Two ringleaders Akbar and Yusuf and a number of Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis were among those killed.

In addition, 41 enemy troops were killed and their two missiles systems, two DShK's, four mortars, 12 rocket launchers, 1 communication system, and three depots of arms and ammunition were destroyed. The report adds that the Pakistani-supported extremist groups fired heavy weapons on some regions of Paktia Province and Khowst Major District which caused no loss of life.

According to another report, as a result of Armed Forces retaliatory attacks, 27 enemy troops were killed, including a number Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis, and eight vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition and a number of trenches belonging to the enemies of our Muslim people were destroyed.

Armed Pakistani-supported extremist groups fired heavy weapons on some regions of Herat Province. As a result of this two persons were martyred and five others were injured.

Mujahidin Operations Said To Cause Heavy Losses
BK2208160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin have inflicted heavy losses in men and materiel to Kabul regime forces during various operations in Baghlan, Parvan, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar Provinces of Afghanistan. The mujahidin attacked the Army's Second Division at Jabal os Saraj in Parvan Province with rockets, killing 17 officers and men of the Kabul regime. They also destroyed an ammunition depot.

Reports say that the mujahidin destroyed an aircraft and two helicopters during rocket attacks on the Bagram airfield. Meanwhile, the Kabul regime is reported to have extended school vacations in Kabul due to the uncertain situation.

Government-Opposition Mediation Commission Meets
LD2308084989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 22, BAKHTAR—The session of the executive board of the mediation commission (between the Afghan Government and the opposition) was held here today chaired by Kamaluddin, chairman of the commission.

The session discussed comprehensively the work plan of the commission and appointed a delegation to arrange the draft of the plan of work of the commission and deliver it into the next session.

It was decided that the action plan of the commission should be published through the mass media of the country.

Envoy to Italy Urges End to 'Fratricidal War'
AU1908170089 Rome ANSA in English 0820 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome [no date as received]—Afghanistan's Soviet-backed president Najibullah has been in contact with the leaders of Moslem resistance forces in that contry, according to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Rome Shamshar Naziani.

Confirming recent speculation in press and diplomatic circles, Naziani said Najibullah held talks with [name indistinct] chiefs "within the framework of efforts that the Afghan Government is making to achieve national reconciliation and put an end to the war."

"Afghanistan is ready for any contacts which might lead to national reconciliation and put an end to this fratricidal war," the charge d'affaires continued. "It is willing to set up a coalition government which includes all elements of society. The Afghan Government confirms

its proposal to set up a commission after a ceasefire to create (?a coalition) government and draw up a new constitution leading to elections and to the formation of a new government."

Naziani went on to say (?that the) current leftist regime did not even rule out a return to Afghanistan of the ex-king Zahir Shah who for many years has lived in exile in Italy. The diplomat described the former monarch as "a man of great experience who is widely respected" and said that the fundamentalist resistance movements, and not Najibullah's government, were the main obstacle for Zahir Shah's return.

For Naziani, the six months since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan under the terms of the Geneva accord have provided proof of the solid basis of the Najibullah administration. "In March, with their attacks on Jalalabad and then on the capital Kabul, the rebels, supported by the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, tried to overthrow the Afghan Government. They did not manage to do it, and moreover they distanced themselves still further from the people who want just one thing: an end to this war."

Appealing to the international community, the United Nations, the non-aligned countries and the pope, Naziani asked for pressure to be placed on the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia to work for a political solution for the Afghan crisis, and to respect the terms of the Geneva accord which called for an end to arms supplies for the Kabul Government and the rebels.

Spanish Citizen Arrested for Illegal Entry

LD2208102989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT
22 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 21, BAKHTAR—A Spanish citizen named "Khorgi Khwan Sanchez Garcia" [spelling of name as received] was arrested recently by the government security forces in Qandahar Province, located south of the country, reported BAKHTAR quoted an authorized military source.

He had illegally entered on August 1st in the composition of an armed extremist group, from Pakistan into the territory of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], added the report.

He during the investigation, confessed that, he had illegally entered, twice into the territory of the RA.

In continuation of gross and flagrant Pakistani violations of the Geneva Accords, illegal entrance of foreign citizens into Afghanistan via Pakistan has reached broader dimensions. For instance, arresting in the past of sixteen foreigners illegally entered into Afghan territory for the purpose of fanning up war and fratricide and trampling under feet the laws of the state of the RA is the manifestation of new wave of outrageous, Pakistani interventions in the internal affairs of our country, report stated.

Of course, continuation of such interventions are being considered as a serious threat to the national sovereignty of Afghanistan.

India

Defense Ministry Employee Arrested on Spy Charges

BK2208154589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 22 (AFP)—Police have arrested a junior Indian Defence Ministry employee for allegedly spying for Pakistan, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday. The news agency said Mahender Kumar Mahendroo, 45, was arrested by detectives as he was allegedly passing documents about Indian radar installations to a Pakistan Embassy official outside a cinema here Monday. Mr. Mahendroo was an assistant in the ministry, PTI said. It quoted police sources as saying that the Pakistani embassy official receiving the documents from Mr. Mahendroo was Abdul Shakoor, 35.

PTI said Mr. Shakoor was an assistant in the embassy, but did not say if he was a diplomat or whether he too had been arrested. The Indian reportedly passed the documents in return for an unspecified amount of money.

Pakistani diplomats could not be contacted for comment.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence in 1947.

Minister Denies Intelligence Agencies Train Bodos

BK2308011689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, has categorically stated that no intelligence agency of the center is involved in training anyone in any part of the country, including the Bodos [Assam tribals]. The minister's denial is in reference to the allegations made by the Assam chief minister and some opposition leaders in this regard. The denial came at a news conference in New Delhi today. Mr Santosh Mohan Dev dismissed the allegations as baseless. He said it is unfortunate that opposition leaders should carry on a systematic campaign even after the government refuted these allegations on the floor of the Parliament. He cautioned that any such propaganda against the Center's intelligence agencies will give unnecessary provocations to elements trying to destabilize the country. It will also vitiate the atmosphere for the tripartite talks on the Bodo problem scheduled to be held next week. The

union minister Dr Rajendrakumari Bajpai will be the center's representative at the talks. Mr Santosh Mohan Dev said the Center hopes that the forthcoming talks will be fruitful.

Answering a question, the minister made it clear that the center is least interested in imposing president's rule in Assam.

Answering another question, Mr Dev denied that the Arunachal Pradesh chief minister gave an exaggerated version of the death toll in the Gohpur clashes. He pointed out that the reporter, who filed the news, has said that his source of news was not the Arunachal Pradesh chief minister.

Jammu-Kashmir Assembly Act Restricts Press

BK2308090589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly has passed the Special Powers Press Act 1989 providing for regulation and control of printing or publication of certain matters in the interest of public order and security of the state. The bill was passed by a majority vote today in the same form as it was tabled in the house yesterday.

Two amendments moved by some opposition and independent members seeking to refer the bill to a select committee were rejected. While the bill was being passed, three opposition members—two belonging to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and one independent—walked out of the House saying that the bill was draconian and against the freedom of the press as guaranteed by the country's Constitution. Four members belonging to the Muslim United Front boycotted the proceedings of the House for the third day today.

CBI Unearths Pakistani Arms for 'Terrorists'

BK2308015889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has unearthed disproportionate assets and fraudulent transactions worth over 5 crore rupees in countrywide raids today. Searches are still on at 83 places and information about further catches is coming in. Twenty-two cases have been registered against public servants from banks, public sector undertakings, and government departments and private parties colluding with them. This is the CBI's second anticorruption drive this year.

Bureau sources in New Delhi said that in a particular case from Bikaner in Rajasthan five persons are suspected to be getting arms from Pakistan and supplying these to terrorists in Punjab. In today's raids a number of AK-47 rifles, cartridges, hand grenades, and other explosives have been recovered.

7 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab 21 Aug

BK2208160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, seven terrorists have been arrested during raids at different places since last night. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that six of them were arrested in Patiala and one in Ropar District.

Border Coordination Meeting With Bangladesh Opens

BK2208075789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] A 5-day conference of the Indo-Bangladesh border coordination committee, representing BSF [Border Security Force] and Bangladesh rifles began in Guwahati this morning. The conference will deliberate on various issues like erection of border fencing, demarcation of pillars, and control of trans-border crimes in the Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram sector.

The 8-member Bangladesh Rifles delegation is headed by the deputy director general, Mr Abdul al-Hussain, while the BSF team is led by Mr Neetram Singh, the inspector general of Tripura and Shillong sector.

2-Day Indo-Nigerian Commission Meeting Begins

BK2108105689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] The Indo-Nigerian joint commission meeting began in New Delhi today. The Indian side was led by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, while his counterpart, Major General I.O.S. Nwachukwu, led the Nigerian delegation. The two sides met for an hour and discussed bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest. The visiting dignitary will call on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, later today. The 2-day deliberations of the commission concludes tomorrow with the signing of agreements.

Ministers Discusses Cooperation

BK2208041989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The Nigerian foreign minister, Major General Nwachukwu, has expressed happiness over India's support for the African people. The Nigerian minister, who is leading his country's delegation at a joint commission meeting, called on the finance minister, Mr Chavan, in New Delhi yesterday and discussed with him matters relating to bilateral cooperation. The two leaders reiterated their country's desire to cooperate in development. India has at present 16 joint ventures in operation in Nigeria.

The two sides have already signed an agreement under which India will help Nigeria set up nearly 40 small-scale industries. The total Indian investment in Nigeria, both in private and public sectors, amounts to $4 billion.

Bilateral Relations To Expand

BK2208161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] India and Nigeria have identified several new areas of cooperation to strengthen their bilateral relations. Both the countries have decided to sign agreement shortly in the fields of industrial development, science, and culture. A decision to this effect was taken during the talks between the visiting Nigerian delegation, led by its foreign minister, Major General Nwachukwu, and the Indian leaders in New Delhi.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the joint commission meeting has decided to set up two committees to work out the modalities of the agreements, which will be signed in the next 3 months.

Addressing a news conference, the Nigerian foreign minister said the two countries have agreed on investment by the Indian private sector in Nigeria and also financial assistance from India for such projects.

Reduced Trade Imbalance Urged

AB2208171189 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Nigeria has called on India to make concerted efforts to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries. The minister of external affairs, Major General Ike Nwachukwu, made the call in New Delhi at the opening of the second session of the Nigeria-India Joint Commission. Joseph Azoro reports from the Indian capital.

[Begin Azoro recording] Major General Nwachukwu observed that the statistics of trade between Nigeria and India indicated and [word indistinct] and lopsided trade balance to the disadvantage of Nigeria. He (?stressed) the need for continued and increased flow of Indian capital into the Nigerian economy, especially within the context of establishing closer economic cooperation through joint venture participation. The minister pointed out that the Federal Government has created conditions and enacted policy measures that would guarantee, as well as protect, foreign investment in the country. Major Gen Nwachukwu urged the participants to provide the useful opportunity for future cooperation in the field of agriculture, research and manpower development, industry, and trade. Major Gen Nwachukwu also told the meeting to inject fresh in-puts into their cooperation geared towards a [word indistinct] birth of a modern and industrialization economy, for the benefit of both countries. The minister was of the view that the second grand commission would guarantee the requisite political will and ensure that concrete and economic strategies for closer relations between them were formulated.

In his contribution, the Indian minister of external affairs, Mr Narasimha Rao, expressed the (?satisfaction) of his government to sign an accord with the [words indistinct] in the area of science and technology, education, as well as cultural agreement which the Nigerian delegation [word indistinct]. Other sectors the minister considered as very vital for the economic development of both countries were in the area of agriculture, manpower training, and participation in joint ventures as well as increasing the volume of trade.

Soon after the opening session of the Nigerian-Indian Joint Commission, Maj Gen Nwachukwu held fruitful discussions with a delegation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He told them, among other things, that the new economic policy measures taken by the Nigerian Government were designed to create more conducive investment climate and confidence [words indistinct] in the nation's economy. Maj Gen Nwachukwu will conclude the first part of his trade mission to the [word indistinct] and Asian countries on Wednesday. [end recording]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Signs Policy Document

LD2308095189 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Test] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Cultural and economic progress, respect for the law, and freedom of expression are prominent in the new government's domestic policy, according to a document signed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In foreign relations, support for Muslims' rights, nonalignment and ties with non-hostile states has been given top priority.

The document, published Tuesday, contains the government's internal and external policies which have been outlined for the attention of the Majlis. The Majlis is due to start a debate on the 22-member Cabinet on Sunday.

"There is hope that the Council of Ministers... will succeed in carrying out the specified aims of the Constitution by receiving a strong vote of confidence from the Majlis," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in the conclusion of the document.

The 18-page statement, based on the goals of the Constitution and the late Imam Khomeyni political and religious will, mentions cultural progress ahead of economic growth as the main domestic aim.

Cultural development would include not only a transformation of the educational system, creation of greater higher education opportunities for youth, and support for scientific research, but also teaching people to respect the law.

"Every individual should be trained in a way that respect for the law and an obligation to implement it precisely and properly becomes a habit and law breaking would be considered a great defect," the document states.

The government would strive to realize equal pay for equal work by women and to enable them to climb the social ladder as high as their talent allowed, in areas permitted by Islam. Such an effort would be in recognition of the women's role in the Islamic revolution which "without a doubt or flattery has in many cases been bigger that men."

The government on the other hand would take measures against anti-cultural values such as consumerism, social corruption and the spread of narcotics.

The document states that the government was determined to seek the people's participation in every field to ensure the swift implementation of its plans.

"The people's active presence in social, economic and cultural affairs, etc., would not be productive without explicit and constructive expression of views.

"The government will create the grounds for the people's total cooperation and for the rejection of dictatorship by supporting the freedom and dignity of individuals and the rights of the people as recognized by the Constitution."

In the economic field, efforts would be made to balance spending and expenditure, increase and improve sources of income, reduce state spending by handing over some services to other sectors and introduce a fair tax system.

By carrying out these policies the government expects to check the growing cash flow in the private sector and curb inflation, as well as increasing employment.

For a successful agricultural policy farmers would be encouraged and production cooperatives would be formed. New techniques would be introduced and the management of large state-owned farms would undergo reform.

The government recognizes and will try to reduce the great dependence of the industrial sector to imported materials, machinery and expertise.

At the same time existing industrial capacity would be used to cut down on imported goods and increase industrial exports. Steps would be taken to hand over non-strategic factories from the state to the private and cooperate sectors.

The document also calls for "speedy and leaping" increase in the production of minerals to provide the raw materials for industries.

Foreign policy would be based on that outlined in the Constitution, i.e. support for Muslims and the deprived around the globe, rejection of the East and West and establishment of ties with states not hostile towards the Islamic Republic.

"The principle of 'Neither East nor West' as the ideal and the slogan of the revolution is the guide for foreign policy and the government would combat the domination... of the superpowers and powers in any form."

Iran would "combat powers and superpowers who intend to dominate and bully... and who deny its justified rights, organize international terrorism against the Iranian people and (the state), support anti-revolutionary elements and intend to interfere in Iran's internal affairs."

The document also stresses on good neighborly relations as an important aspect of its external policy. But as long as Iraqi troops continued to occupy Iranian land, Baghdad could not expect such relations.

"It is obvious that as long as the aggressor army of the Iraqi regime... occupies even a very small part of our country's land, having good neighborly relations with it would be meaningless.

"In other words good neighborly relations would be made possible by Iraq's retreat and complete withdrawal to internationally recognized borders," the government policy document stresses.

Iran's defense strategy would be aimed at protecting national interests against foreign threats, confronting aggression and separatism, meeting defense needs, providing military training and popular mobilization.

This would be achieved by "forming a uniform and effective defense organization", using research and industrial capabilities to meet defense requirements and strengthening defense foundations by reducing dependence on foreign technology to a minimum.

President Briefs Diplomats on Policy Positions

LD2308104889 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday rejected any change "reform" [as received] in Iran's policies as being propagated by the enemies of Iran. But addressing Iran's diplomatic corps Wednesday he said under his administration the revolution would pursue its objectives with greater dynamism.

He stressed that the guidelines set by the late imam and his aspirations were unchangable. "Different times create different conditions which could effect actions. However, the effect will only be on tactics and not on principles," said the president.

He expressed hope that in the second decade of the revolution the physical achievements of the Islamic Revolution would be presented to the world.

He said the war with Iraq had not definitely ended, but ruled out the possibility that Iraq may think of resuming the war because of its unfavourable domestic conditions.

The president added that those who had instigated Iraq to launch the war and did not benefit from it, were unlikely to foster a new war.

He said Iran must get across its message in the world arena within the framework of internationally accepted norms.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on diplomats to present articles and reports to the press in countries where they served to inform foreigners on Iranian issues, including the false idea of the existence of a power struggle in Iran.

"They must be sure that we have no political problem at home and the mass participation of the people in funeral of the late imam and allegiance with the new leader shows there is no room for an alternative (to the Islamic Republic)."

Iran was ready to establish friendly ties with all countries which have surrendered their plundering ideas, with the exception of "two or three".

Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged coordination in Iranian embassies and missions abroad, stressing that all ministries and all staff of the missions must coordinate their actions with the ambassador in sorting out problems and follow his policies.

ABRAR Examines Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Policies

LD2308080689 Tehran IRNA in English 0624 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR in an editorial Wednesday said the new government had put a great emphasis on promotion of Islamic and national culture.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani outlined his domestic and foreign policy plans in a document for the attention of Majlis deputies who will vote on his ministerial nominations on Sunday. The document was released on Tuesday.

ABRAR said Hashemi-Rafsanjani's plan gave priority to education, research, respect for law, youth affairs, rights of women, art, cultural heritage and campaign against anti-cultural values.

Attainment of these goals call for planning on the basis of genuine Islamic and national cultural values, investment and using professionals in the relevant fields, said the paper.

Centuries-long efforts to separate Islamic and national aspects of Iranian culture have failed because the two were closely tied and their mixture had brought outstanding results.

"Any attempt to draw a line between the two will result in a vacuum and damage the national unity," said the editorial.

Unlike other areas, investment in this field would not yield immediate results and its effects will surface in the years to come.

Editorial Views Khamene'i's Foreign Policy Speech

LD2308080289 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Iran's foreign policy will remain unchanged as leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has stressed, an Iranian daily said.

Ayatollah Khamene'i made the emphasis to counter "wishful thinking" that Imam Khomeyni's death would lead to change in Iran's foreign policy, JOMHURI YE-ESLAMI said in its editorial Wednesday.

Undoubtedly Iranians will follow the line of the late imam just as vigorously as when he was alive, said the paper. The stress of the leader makes it clear for foreign policy makers that there was no room for the slightest deviation.

The Iranian diplomatic corps must therefore realize that other than being ambassadors of Iran they are ambassadors of the revolution and must demonstrate this through their attitude, the paper said.

"Political independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran was due to negation of domination of both East and West. This is what the Iranian diplomats must adhere to," said the editorial.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi Meet With Officials

LD2208184389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] In a session of the Executive Branch convened this morning with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, and the president's deputies, the deputies, advisers, and director-generals of the Prime Minister's Office were introduced to Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Speaking at the meeting, Musavi remarked: Because of the presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani here in the executive branch, today is one of the very good, happy days for all brothers serving in the Prime Minister's Office. We can be sure that his presence will encourage service of the faithful forces. He added: In the past few difficult years, the directors of the Prime Minister's Office have rendered praiseworthy services with courage and sincerity; these services have not always been apparent. What his

eminence, the imam—may God's benedictions be upon him—said about the unknown [gomnam] soldiers can be aptly said of these brothers. In conclusion, Musavi noted: These directors are prepared to serve the new Presidency with faith and sincerity.

Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that he was more or less familiar with the activities of most of the directors of the Prime Minister's Office during these recent difficult years. He said: Under the most difficult of circumstances, the executive officials in charge, especially senior officials in the presidential body and Prime Minister's Office, kept the country on its feet and did not allow executive affairs to assume an unacceptable posture [chehreh-e na-ma'qul]. Of course, this was a duty for all of us, and we should be thankful that we have been able to carry out our duties.

The president noted the implementation of the amendments forecast in the Constitution regarding the executive branch and the establishment of the new government and said that these tasks will naturally take time. He expressed appreciation and thanks to the officials of executive organizations, who, without paying attention to continuing developments, are continuing to perform their duties with the same strength and effort that they exerted in the past, in this period of transition. He called on the Prime Ministry's officials not to allow work to accumulate waiting for the establishment of the new Presidency.

Mirzadeh Named Executive Affairs Vice President
LD2208173189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] According to an appointment letter, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani appointed Eng Hamid Mirzadeh as vice president for executive affairs. The text of the letter of appointment is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Excellency Hamid Mirzadeh:

According to Article 124 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], and with due regard to your past experience and service, I appoint Your Excellency as vice president for executive affairs. I wish Your Excellency and your colleagues success in your performance of this great duty.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Paper Views New Chief Justice Appointment
NC2208203889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Ayatollah Yazdi Can Give New Shape to Judiciary"]

[Text] With the appointment by leadership decree of Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as head of the judiciary, there is likely to be a different shape to the entire judicial system as it operates in the Islamic Republic of Iran following on the revolution.

The new changes follow on the heels of changes to the Islamic Republic Constitution itself which were recently endorsed by the people in a referendum. Although the new Constitution defines the limits of the powers that can be wielded by the supreme judicial authority, the chief justice who was earlier overlooked by a Supreme Judicial Council, it still fails to address the question of who overlooks the judiciary system as a whole. But the judiciary powers do not conflict and are not irreconcilable with state powers held by other legislative and executive state organs. Article 90 of the Constitution along with the leader of the Islamic Republic, who directly appoints the head of judicary, are the two sources which ensure supervisory control with regard to the judiciary as a whole.

Ayatollah Yazdi takes over his responsibility after serving two terms as a representative in the Majlis both from Qom and Tehran and was appointed by the late leader of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, to be on the Council of Guardians. When in the Majlis he was a member of the Judicial Committee. His wide experience in working with all organs of state including the judicary should fit him eminently to carry things along to create a streamlined judicial system.

The judicial system of the Islamic Republic is looked upon as still in its infancy compared with other branches of the government; this because the system was almost created from scratch after the Islamic Revolution unlike the others which used earlier foundations of the extant systems.

The judicial system prior to the Islamic Revolution was based on what is termed "positive law", but this came to be changed latterly to "divine law" in keeping with the goals, ideals and ideology of the Islamic Revolution. In order to implement this new system an experienced and knowledgeable team of judges and judicial experts were needed. After the passage of ten years since the revolution the need is still felt for such eminent and knowledgeable persons to give body to the system. It could be that a very lack of personnel is the cause of the diversities that have appeared in the system. It cannot be claimed that there is a "unified judiciary prudence" followed by our judges. It is seen sometimes that two different verdicts are pronounced on the same case in two different courts. The laws have to be made clearer and given proper definition if such diversities are not to recur.

Ayatollah Yazdi as the head of the judicary should issue orders guaranteeing "judicial security" as defined by the Constitution and do this quickly and without hesitation. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran has clearly defined the extent of "judicial security" for the citizens of the country and these definitions are governed by the Divine laws of Islam. Hence the two most important tasks of the new judicial head would be to make it clear beyond doubt what "judiciary security" is and initiate "unified judicial prudence" into the system as he deems best in the interests of society.

Daily Urges Support for 'Dynamic' Cabinet
NC2208201189 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "With Regard to the Cabinet"]

[Excerpts] Early this week, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, fourth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will introduce his Cabinet to the Islamic Majlis. This Cabinet will, for obvious reasons, be a capable and dynamic one. For purposes of brevity we will refrain from discussing these qualities but we will move on to two points that everyone needs to ponder. By "everyone," we mean the Majlis deputies and the various sections of the public who are loyal to the revolution. Both of these have definite ideas about the composition of the Cabinet.

The first point is that the president should be given the opportunity to choose the ministers he wants, so that he can bring them to the forefront of operations. The expectations and opinions of these two sections should not be bandied around in various ways nor should opinions be aired in an insinuating manner. [passage omitted]

Would it not be better if a president who has been elected by such a large majority is allowed his natural right, that is, to choose his ministers without causing an atmosphere of innuendo? All are aware that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has more knowledge than all the others being interviewed nowadays on past and present ministers, knows where the weaknesses lie, if any, and how these weaknesses are to be eliminated. Therefore, why is it necessary to air such opinions? This does not mean that no one should voice his opinion. If this is done in a healthy manner and without any ulterior motive, it is very much appreciated. [passage omitted]

The second point is that Majlis deputies should exercise justice and moderation regarding the ministers who are introduced, should not ignore the strong points of the candidates for considerations of various lines and trends, and should not magnify minor flaws. There is no doubt the deputies have the right to try to modify the proposed candidates, but they are themselves answerable to the people to do so with sincerity, justice, moderation, and honesty.

The result will be that at least those ministers who receive a vote of confidence will embark on their tasks in an atmosphere of commendability and reliability and will strive—with such moral support which behooves this critical juncture of the history of the Islamic revolution—for the attainment of the ideals of this revolution. But if they are targets of unjust criticism at home, then how can they do so? [passage omitted]

Possible Soviet Civil Aircraft Purchase Reported
NC2208160789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 89 p 1

[N. Karimi report]

[Text] Tehran—A high-powered Iranian civil aviation delegation will fly tomorrow to Moscow to explore the possibilities for the purchase of the passenger planes from the Soviet Union.

Informed sources talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said yesterday that the Iranian delegation headed by Civil Aviation Chief Mohammad Nabi Habibi will stay in Moscow for eight days.

The sources said that the Iranian delegation will visit civil aviation facilities in the Soviet Union including the aviation industry, aeronautical equipments and the management units of the airports.

"Avenues for closer cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union in the aviation field will be explored during this visit," the sources on condition of anonymity said.

"As a result of the talks in Moscow there is a possibility that Iran may purchase some facilities including the passenger planes," he said.

The Iranian delegation, beside Habibi, includes representatives from the Iran Air and Aseman domestic airlines.

The Iran Air operates domestic and international flights. Both the Iran Air and Aseman have a total of 27 passenger and cargo planes.

The Iran Air which is also called Homa or Phoenix, has 24 planes including eight 747s including one for cargo, five Airbuses including one which was hijacked to Iraq in 1984, four 707s including one for cargo, six 727s including one which was hijacked in Sept. 1984 and three 737s including one which was bombed by Iraqi planes in 1986 at the Shiraz Airport.

The Aseman literally meaning 'sky' has three Fokker Friendships. It also has few other small planes.

Commentary Assails French Intervention in Lebanon
LD2208140789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1057 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Station commentary entitled: "The Intervention of France and Its Arab Allies in Lebanon"]

[Text] The closer the French military fleet gets to the coast of Lebanon the greater is the reaction to it and the more the political dimensions of the current Lebanese

crisis are intensified. This is taking place at a time when other pressures from Western governments and regional reaction to Lebanese Islamic and nationalist forces are increasing.

From the moment that Michel 'Awn began his ruinous war against the Lebanese people, the French Government began overtly supporting that insurgent minority. And although his initial efforts were defeated and although a great hue and cry over humanitarian assistance was summed up in a minor action, he is now trying to create new conditions which will bring about multinational intervention in Lebanon.

The new conditions have emerged after the declaration of defeat by the three-member Arab committee, the hostage-taking crisis, and the increasing unity of Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic and nationalist forces. Immediately after the tactical attack last week on the Suq al-Gharb region by some national Lebanese and Palestinian parties and the crossing of [zir pa nahadan] the so-called red lines—disregarding the lines—the United States, France, and their Arab allies increased their pressure on genuine Lebanese forces and, through them, on Syria.

France has sent its fleet to Lebanon and Saddam, Shah Husayn, and 'Arafat met in Baghdad, and Egypt presented a new plan for resolving the crisis. The United States, too, has given France the right to send its military ships to the Lebanese coastal waters.

Now, after the warning by an unknown organization by the name of Revolutionary Justice which holds several Western hostages, that French military intervention may endanger the lives of the hostages, Mitterrand, the French president, has announced: The mission of the French fleet is assistance and support; although it is not clear from his assertion assistance for whom and support for what group. Nonetheless, a French Government official has added: French support is not intended for one section of the Lebanese society. What is amusing is this: Why does humanitarian aid have to be sent to Lebanon in military ships?

In the midst of all this, it should be borne in mind that France has a better experience of military intervention in Lebanon. And the only gift it took for the French people as a result of its intervention was the corpses of its soldiers who were killed as a result of the destruction of their base in Lebanon.

Alongside France, its old ally, that is the Iraqi regime, along with Jordan and the PLO, is trying to actively intervene in the Lebanese crisis and to achieve in Lebanon what it could not in the imposed war. The invitation to the people of Baghdad to hold anti-Syria demonstrations, the dispatch of arms to Lebanon to save Michel 'Awn, and support for these who favor Lebanese dismemberment all make it clear that that regime is heading, crazily and with its eyes shut, in the direction planned for it beforehand by Western powers.

On the other hand, 'Arafat, who is at a political impasse and who has given up all the political points because of wishful thinking, wants to become active in Lebanon once again in order to hide political failures. One of his advisers has said some things which even leaders of the Zionist regime's leaders would not have dared utter. He said: Michel 'Awn has done Lebanon and the Lebanese people a great service and his great service will be recorded in history.

These military and political expeditions all have aims: the expulsion of Syrian forces from Lebanon, weakening Islamic and nationalist forces, and strengthening a sectarian regime there. However, the other side has greater advantages and last week's attack on the Suq al-Gharb front revealed that Islamic and nationalist forces can tighten the circle around Michel 'Awn. And the dispatch of the French military fleet to Lebanon, too, in view of previous experience and current conditions, is nothing more than an exhibition and is condemned to failure.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Rejects U.S. Ties

NC2108113489 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Aug 89 p 11

[Editorial: "The United States Should Behave in a Manly Way"]

[Excerpts] "We strongly reject any possibility of talks or establishment of ties with the United States." These words were uttered by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while addressing a group of noble families of POW's and MIA's of the imposed war. "As long as the United States continues to base its policy on falsehood, deceit, and malice and continues its support of the unholy Zionist regime and tyrannizing of the oppressed nations of the world, we categorically reject any possibility of talks and establishment of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States."

By making such a statement, the leader of the revolution has once again emphasized the logical, sensible, and uncompromising stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard. [passage omitted]

The United States has become accustomed to using force and intimidation and imagines that all problems can be resolved by belligerence and creating an uproar. Therefore, it is necessary to prove to the United States that tyranny is not a solution to humanity's problems and that human beings should be treated as such. The United States has proved that it is not able to understand this simple truth and therefore should be treated with utter disregard.

This is not aimed at ridiculing the American nation. It is not the objective of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ridicule anyone. If one wishes to throw one's weight around, his contemptuous manner should be exposed in every possible manner so that he should realize that he is even lower than those who trample human values underfoot in this world and continue their policy of belligerence.

The great and revolutionary Iranian nation has proved the contemptuous attitude of the United States toward human beings and wishes to make it understand that it should behave in a manly way so that it may become worthy of having relations with human beings.

It would not be inappropriate, and all humanity agrees, that the United States should be asked to refrain from brutality and halt its support of the most bestial antihuman regime.

Humanity recognizes and values the fact that the United States should relinquish its policy of aggression, crime, and massacre of nations and should live as civilized human beings are supposed to and should not attack passenger planes. If it did so by mistake, it should apologize to humanity for the crime. [passage omitted]

If, like a thief, the United States has misappropriated the Islamic Republic of Iran's assets and if it terms Iran's legitimate demand for the return of those assets as "demanding ransom," this is the height of shamelessness on the part of a government which steals from another and then terms the demand for its legitimate rights, "asking for ransom."

This is the brutal logic of the United States which wishes to resolve all problems by resorting to force and is actually wallowing in a quagmire of ignorance. The United States should wake up to the fact that the era of belligerence and bullying has ended and the era of brutality and resorting to disgraceful terrorist tactics for the preservation of an antihuman regime and toppling of independent regimes has come to an end.

The United States should admit that Washington's policy of belligerence and raising a hue and cry over the Islamic Republic of Iran has brought utter defeat to U.S. echelons and has reached an impasse. Nations have awakened and are not prepared to resuscitate antihuman ties with Satanic powers on the same inhuman lines as in the past, and this is something Washington should comprehend clearly.

The fact that the vessel of U.S. and Western policy has run aground in Lebanon, that Israel is in a blind alley because of its policy of brutal repression, and if the West feels impotent and humiliated before the oppressed people in Lebanon despite the presence of its active intelligence sources, the reason is that its policy of brutality has become becalmed.

The West, and in particular the United States, should realize these facts and should accept the tangible and overt realities of the changing world of today, and this will enable it to find the root cause of its problems with regard to the risen nations. Then all it needs to do is to seek solutions to these problems on the basis of true facts by using its talents. The only condition in which this can be attained is if the United States and all those who regard brutality and use of force as a policy become human. Is such a phenomenon possible? This is something that pertains entirely to them.

Eliasson To Prepare Next Round of Peace Talks

LD2208094489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] According to a report from the West German news agency in New York, Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's special representative in the Iran-Iraq peace talks, will leave for Geneva today to meet and confer with representatives of the two countries. Announcing the fact, a UN spokesman said that in the talks, which will take place 23 and 24 August, the preliminaries will take place for resuming peace talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers under the auspices of the UN secretary general during the meeting of the nonaligned countries' heads of state in Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, expressed anxiety last week about the lack of significant progress in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Commentary Views Anniversary of Cease-Fire

LD2108014789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Unattributed "political commentary"]

[Excerpts] A year has passed since the morning of 20 August last year, the date of the establishment of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war. The cease-fire was the turning-point of the war and followed the announcement of Iran and Iraq's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which was carried out as the first step. [passage omitted]

The acceptance of the resolution by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iraq's actions from then until the establishment of the cease-fire, blatantly revealed the Iraqi regime's intentions. Within a few days of the official announcement of Iran's acceptance of the resolution, the Iraqi regime, on the one hand, began extensive operations in the southern and central sectors; and on the other, provided assistance and aid for the affiliated monafeqin [hypocrites] elements to invade the Islamic Republic of Iran. The sum total of these measures highly contradicted the propaganda continuously aired by Iraq against the Islamic Republic.

In any case, taking note of these, with the help of the UN secretary general, 20 August was declared the date of the establishment of cease-fire in the war and UN observer forces were stationed along the borders of the two countries. Yet, a year after the mission of these forces began, many of their duties have not been carried out, due to the lack of achieving an all-around agreement in the talks; and thus the final implementation of the resolution has been delayed as well. [passage omitted]

Iraq's irresponsible actions, and the (?softness) of the Security Council and its lack of necesssary initiative to confront this situation, prepared the grounds for the continuation of hostilities. Although, with the establishment of the cease-fire, the weapons fell silent because of the failure to arrive at necessary agreements to solve opposing issues, the region, and especially Iran and Iraq, faces insecurity and potential tension. This has not only eclipsed the efforts for reconstruction, but has also accelerated the arms race in the region. [passage omitted]

Iraq's confrontation with its neighbors and the principle elements of its foreign policy have always consisted of: territorial expansionism, diplomatic treason, military intimidation, and lunatic opportunism. A government which is only prepared to (?submit) in the face of power, bearing in mind its secret and open relations with domineering and colonialist governments, seeks to play the role of regime policeman. It becomes clear that differences over the Arvand River, the Shatt [al-'Arab], or insisting on its dredging, and accepted external relations, are only a cover for pursuing aims which, without doubt, were among the motivations of war.

Taking note of this background, and a resolution which has only had parts of its first paragraph implemented, it appears that the UN Security Council should begin new efforts to implement a resolution regarded as the basis for the renewed establishment of peace and security in the region. In any case, as Resolution 598 is considered a resolution which must be implemented, and as the Security Council is dutybound to provide the necessary facilities and create the appropriate international (?climate) towards its implementation, the secretary general—bearing in mind the powers which have been granted to him as the official in charge of executing the resolution—should insist on the need for the Iraqi regime to commit itself to international principles and the UN Charter, and thus improve the prospects for speedy execution of the resolution.

Editorial Assails Iraq's Attitude on Talks

NC2208204289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq Should Be Brought to Its Senses"]

[Text] A recent remark by the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khamene'i, to say that any future progress in the Iran-Iraq peace talks will depend very much on Iraq's pulling back its troops to internationally recognized borders expresses in a nutshell what Iranian public opinion holds to be the correct view on this one-year-old issue.

But the hasty Iraqi reaction was still another of the many illogical statements it continues to make on this theme. The Iraqi information minister turned down the Iranian call to move back saying that the issue of the occupied territory was "subject to negotiations." Minister al-Jasim once again proclaimed Iraqi territorial ambitions by claiming that the Shatt al-'Arab, or Arvand Rud [river], is Iraqi.

The Iraqi official made another much propagated proposal that a new pact needs to be drawn up to replace the 1975 Algiers Accord on the Arvand Rud.

When all these statements and suggestions are seen together, the stand of the Iraqis becomes even clearer; they do not wish to have the dispute settled within the internationally recognized parameters and want to attach parts of Iranian territry to Iraq.

It is very strange indeed that a member-state of the United Nations and a signatory to the U.N. Charter makes its expansionist aims public and stranger still that there does not seem to be hardly a murmur from the international community against such a vicious claim.

Iran can most easily ignore these absurd suggestions and statements if it is known that they are for domestic consumption in Iraq. But seeing no reason that this is all to it, Iran has to assume that Iraq really means what it says and hence Iran has to think more than twice over before letting such pass by.

For its part Iran has repeatedly declared its sincere desire to negotiate a U.N. mediated genuine peace within the framework of Security Council Resolution 598. But this does not mean that the Islamic Republic will be agreeable tamely to giving in to the expansionist bullyings of Iraq.

As far as the world is concerned, it should take this issue more seriously than it is doing now and view the Iraqi prevarications and its latest refusal to take sense [as published] as simply a new declaration of war. So it should behoove the international community to bring reason to bear on the entire issue and bring Iraq to its senses.

KAYHAN Editorial Comments on POW Release

LD2308081189 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—An Iranian daily Wednesday commented on the issue of prisoners of war and urged all involved in Iran-Iraq peace negotiations to give it priority attention.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL referred to Monday's release of six Somali citizens captured during the war. In all, 1,447 prisoners, including 38 non-Iraqis, have been unilaterally released by Iran on humanitarian grounds.

"Irrespective of what the Iraqi Ba'thists think or plan, the POW issue deserves more serious attention," it stressed and believed "it is entirely a humanitarian issue."

"Other conditions of the ceasefire, though equally important, are not as sensitive as the POW issue."

But KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said Baghdad considered the POW issue as a "bargaining clip [as received]... believing that it can use them as hostages and extract concessions from the Islamic Republic."

The editorial expressed hope the President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "who believes that many major issues can be solved politically and diplomatically, will do the needful in this respect."

It also called on U.N. Security Council "to exert pressure on Iraq to fulfill its obligations in this respect."

Nepal

French Embassy Denies Gold Smuggling Reports

BK2208085689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 22—A French Embassy official Tuesday [22 August] denied reports that a diplomat was involved in smuggling gold through a forged diplomatic pouch received here last week. Local press reports that an economic councillor was involved were "baseless," the official said.

Customs sources said Monday that 31 kilos (68.2 pounds) of gold had been seized in a diplomatic bag said to have come from the French Consulate in Hong Kong.

The official said the embassy had never before received such a diplomatic bag from Hong Kong, and he branded it a forgery. He said the embassy would cooperate with local police in the investigation. The official confirmed reports that an embassy driver, on airport duty when the bogus pouch was seized by airport customs Thursday, had since failed to report to work. He said meanwhile that the bag contained 23.17 kilos (50.97 pounds) in gold bars wrapped in paper.

No arrests had been made although police were "watching the movements of French Embassy staff and their contact people" as part of the investigation, a police source said.

Shrestha Receives Asian Development Bank Offical

OW2008111389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug. 20 KYODO—Kimimasa Tarumizu, a senior advisor to the government of Japan, met Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha at his office Sunday. Tarumizu was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Kazuaki Arichi, the prime minister's office said.

Tarumizu, who will soon assume the presidency of the Asian Development Bank [ADB], arrived here on a visit earlier in the day.

Pakistan

Bhutto Dismisses Head of Armed Forces Sirohey

BK2308072189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 23 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has dismissed the head of Pakistan's Armed Forces, an opposition newspaper reported Wednesday. A successor has yet to be named.

The term of Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was allowed to expire August 14, Ms Bhutto, who is also Pakistan's defence minister, told the English-language daily THE NATION.

When asked about rumors that she had disagreed with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Adm. Sirohey's term of office, Ms Bhutto told the paper: "I will not comment on the issue other than to say that there is a Constitution which describes the rights of everyone, and there are courts to which the aggrieved parties can refer."

Despite his title, Adm. Sirohey was considered less powerful in the military hierarchy than the Army Chief of Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg.

Adm. Sirohey was appointed to his post after his predecessor, General Akhtar Abdul Rahman, died in the airplane crash a year ago that killed former President Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

A spokesman for Ms Bhutto said Wednesday that Adm. Sirohey had been named to the post for an indefinite period, but that "no mention" had been made on how long he would serve.

Defense Ministry officials declined to comment on the newspaper report.

Adm. Sirohey served as head of the Navy for several years after commanding several warships and serving in diplomatic posts abroad.

In May, six months after she came to power, Ms Bhutto replaced another top military official, Lieutenant General Hameed Gul, chief of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the Pakistani secret service.

The ISI post was taken over by Lieutenant General Shamsur Rehman Kalloo, who General Zia had been dismissed from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

'Islamic Bomb' Author Denounces Arrest to Press

BK2308012489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP)—Zahid Malik, owner and editor-in-chief of the PAKISTAN OBSERVER, accused the authorities Tuesday of illegally detaining him for two weeks for his journalistic activities.

Mr. Malik was detained on August 6 allegedly over "Dr. Abdul Khadir Khan and the Islamic Bomb," his book on the founding father and director of the Nuclear Research Centre at Kahuta, east of Islamabad. He was arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for allegedly including material "prejudicial to the national interest" in the book, which was published in June. But, he told a news conference here, "99 per cent of the questions" asked him during his "interrogation" had to do with his newspaper and its "funding" rather than the book.

Mr. Malik, 52, who was released on bail Monday, defended the "independent policy" of the PAKISTAN OBSERVER, the country's only evening paper. "We are an opposition paper, we support the government on basic issues," he said. He added that his paper had "no special relationship" with the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), although two influential members of the IJI, former Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo, and chairman of opposition in Parliament, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, were among "many" people who called him upon his release.

Mr. Malik said he had received no charges against him in writing, nor a "written complaint from the Pakistani Government" on his book. He did not rule out suing the authorities for his "illegal detention."

Mr. Malik said his book was based on published articles and on Pakistani and foreign books as well as "personal opinions" on the nuclear program, adding that it had "nothing to do with the secrets of Pakistan." The book contained nothing new on the nuclear policy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto government, he said.

He recalled that Ms. Bhutto's predecessor, General Muhammed Ziaul Haq, "tried to stop the publication" of his book.

Ms. Bhutto has stated on numerous occasions that her government does not possess any nuclear missiles and has no intention of manufacturing them.

Bhutto: PPP-IJI Differences Part of Democracy

BK1908082289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said it was wrong to term differences between the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI—Islamic Democratic Alliance] as a conflict between the federal and the Punjab government. In their view the differences were between the PPP and the IJI. [sentence as heard] She was talking to newsmen on her arrival in Lahore this morning on a short visit to the provincial metropolis.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said difference of opinion was a part of democratic setup. Because of a short history of democracy in the country, people were not used to such differences. Expression of different views, she said, was good for the future of democracy.

Earlier, on arrival she was received at the airport among others by the Punjab governor, retired General Tikka Khan; the chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif; some federal ministers; ministers of state; advisers to the prime minister; provincial ministers; mayor of Lahore; and the People's Party leaders.

Party Opposes Military Assuming Power Again

BK1808055089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] The secretary general of Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Islam, Mawlana Fazlur Rahman, has said that his party firmly believes that any change in the political system should be made only according to the Constitution and it never wants to see the military assume power again. He was talking to newsmen in Peshawar yesterday.

Identity Cards No Longer Required for Voting

BK2008113489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Voters have been exempted from the requirement of producing identity cards before voting. But, in the case of their identity being challenged, voters will have to furnish proof of their identity—including national identity card, firearms license, ration card, bank passbook, or passport. This exemption will also apply to voters who are to vote in the by-election to constituency No PP-140, Sheikhopura-7, of the Punjab Assembly.

National Oil Production To Reach 60,000 Barrels

BK2008144389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] Oil has been struck at Fim Kassar in Chakwal District with a daily production capacity of 2,000 barrels. This was stated by the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr Jahangir Badar, at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. He said the well drilled exclusively by the OGDC [Oil and Gas

Development Commission] will be brought in production in some 2 to 3 weeks. With coming on production line of three new discoveries made during the current month at Bhangali in Rawalpindi, Pasaki near Hyderabad, and at Fim Kassar in Chakwal, the country will be producing 60,000 barrels of oil daily. This would enable the country to meet about 50 percent of its oil requirements.

Satellite Ground Receiving Station Opens

BK1708112289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, formally opened a satellite ground receiving station about 25 km from Islamabad today. Set up by the SUPARCO [Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission], the station will receive remote sensing data from satellites and orbiting spacecraft for use in various fields. These include identification of mineral deposits and natural resources; management of water resources; control of waterlogging and salinity; agriculture, environment, and pollution studies; and cartography.

Before the prime minister unveiled the plaque of the ground station, she was given a detailed briefing by the SUPARCO chairman and was shown around various sections of the station.

Muslim League Leader on U.S. 'Interference'

BK1608123689 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Aug 89 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 6: The Secretary General, Pakistan Muslim League, Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan, has expressed grave concern over the continued interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan by the Bush administration and said that instead of individuals, the United States should encourage democratic institutions in other countries.

In a statement issued here on Sunday [6 August], Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan described the statement of US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence, Mr Arthur Hughes, before the Congressional sub-committees as most provocative, asserting that the supply of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan would strengthen the position of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan.

Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan said the US policy-makers always miscalculate the socio-political urges in the developing countries and instead of encouraging democratic institutions, back individuals which has harmed the promotion of democracy in these countries.

He said the party now being supported by the US administration in Pakistan had adopted an anti-democracy attitude soon after coming into power. A policy of confrontation has been adopted against elected provincial governments where other parties are in power.

Mujahidin News Agency Begins Formal Operation

BK2008143089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] The first news agency of the interim government of Afghanistan has begun formal operation. It has been named MIDIA, or Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan.

Inaugurating the news agency in Peshawar today, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the president of the interim Afghan government, expressed the hope that the news agency will give due publicity to the mujahidin's cause, struggle, and successes, which they have been achieving at the battlefronts inside Afghanistan.

Indian Terms for Sri Lanka Pullout Criticized

BK1608130489 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "IPKF: Unfair Conditions"]

[Text] India has again turned down Sri Lanka's demand for a total withdrawal of its peacekeeping force (IPKF) by the middle of September. This is the meaning of the plan proposed by New Delhi for a phased withdrawal ending some time in February next year. Even this is linked to the devolution of power to the Tamil areas, the northern and eastern provinces, and the "safety and security of the Tamil minority". The linkage is not only unfair to Sri Lanka but is also contrary to all canons of international law and morality. The conditions are a clear violation of the sovereignty of a neighbouring state.

Both the demands—devolution of power to local councils and the safety and security of the Tamil minority—are Sri Lanka's internal concerns and cannot be made open to dictation by India or any other outside power. Obviously, India is taking an unfair advantage of the presence of its troops on the Sri Lankan soil to impose these conditions. It should be remembered that the Tamils constitute only 18 percent of the country's population, and it can best safeguard its rights and interests by coming to a settlement with the majority community and not by relying on the military prowess of a neighbouring state. Even among the Tamils, LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], the largest Tamil guerrilla group has already reached an agreement with the Government in Colombo. This means that India is insisting on the protection of a small group, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], which is backed by New Delhi and has cooperated with the IPKF. Shorn of sophistry, New Delhi's stand amounts to reneging on its repeated categorical commitments to pull out its forces instantly after a call from Colombo.

When New Delhi sent its troops to Sri Lanka, it took advantage of the tiny neighbour's helplessness. Today, when it is refusing to honour its pledge and insisting on overstaying the welcome, it is relying on the same excuse—Sri Lanka's helplessness. New Delhi knows that Colombo is reeling under the impact of the onslaughts from JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] terrorists and its ill-equipped forces cannot take on the well-armed IPKF. In such a situation Sri Lanka would be fully justified in taking the issue to the UN. If and when it does so, India would be hard put to defend its position morally and legally in an international forum.

Sri Lankan Minister Brings Premadasa Messages

BK2008103589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 20 Aug 89

[Text] A.R. Mansoor, the Sri Lankan minister for trade and shipping, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he has brought messages from President Premadasa to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, which he will deliver during his meetings with them. The Sri Lankan minister said his country is very interested in further expanding close ties with Pakistan in trade and other fields. He described as very useful his meetings with businessmen and industrialists in Karachi during the past 3 days.

Spokesman on Nonaligned Summit, Iran, Siachen

BK1708125389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 89

[Text] The senior federal minister, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, will lead the Pakistani delegation at the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit to be held in Belgrade from the 4th of next month. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that Pakistan would actively take part in the discussions on important issues at the summit, including Afghanistan, Middle East, disarmament, and international economic order.

About Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's visit to Iran, the spokesman said he will discuss with his Iranian counterpart issues of mutual interest, including Afghanistan.

He further said that a delegation of Indian military commanders is reaching Islamabad today for talks on Siachen issue. The talks will begin tomorrow.

Contract With PRC for Thermal Power Project

BK2108161289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Three thermal power units with a capacity of 50 megawatts each will be set up at Khanot of Dadu District in Sind Province at the cost of $110 million. These units will be fueled by Lakhra coal.

A contract worth $70 million for the construction and commissioning of these units was signed between the chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority and China's (Dong Fong) Electric Corporation chairman in Lahore today. Under the agreement, [China's] corporation will be responsible for designing, supplying, installing, and commissioning all electrical and mechanical equipment for the units.

China's electric corporation has provided a credit of $60.5 million [figure as heard] for this project.

(Bao Xhidin), the planning minister of China's Sichuan Province, who was present on the occasion, said that China attaches great importance to this project. The first unit of the project is expected to go into operation in March 1992, the second in September 1992, and the third in January 1993.

Sri Lanka

650 Indian Soldiers Depart for Madras 22 Aug

BK2208142089 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] About 650 Indian soldiers returned home today after serving a 2-year period with the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in Sri Lanka. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported that the soldiers from the 51st Engineers Regiment arrived in the southern Indian port of Madras by a chartered ship [name of ship indistinct]. They had set sail from the northern port of Kankesanthurai yesterday. It brought to more than 2,500 the number of IPKF men who have returned home since 29 July.

High Commissioner Comments on New Delhi Proposals

BK2208165689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, has said the proposed visit of a special envoy to Colombo aims at discussing and finalizing the agreed positions of Sri Lanka and India on New Delhi's proposals. The date for the special envoy's visit is yet to be finalized.

Mr Mehrotra told AIR [All India Radio] Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that New Delhi's proposals have been under constant review and discussion between the two countries. The Sri Lankan president has been considering them ever since his country's delegation reached back home after a week's consultation last month.

Meanwhile, at least 23 people, including 9 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists and 8 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men were killed in separate incidents in Sri Lanka. The LTTE men were killed in the on-going IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] operations at Point Pedro

and other places. The dead included Mr Kannaswami, LTTE's political wing leader for Jaffna. At one place—Alvai—LTTE men fired from a temple and nearby houses at an IPKF patrol party. The IPKF jawans [soldiers] took precaution to avoid civilian casualties.

In south Sri Lanka, four more civilians were killed by JVP men. Elsewhere in the country, the security forces killed nine JVP men during an encounter. According to AP [ASSOCIATED PRESS], 18 bodies were recovered today at Mahawehera village in south Sri Lanka where JVP extremists ambushed an Army convoy 2 days ago. All the 18 bodies are said to be those of JVP men.

Two-hundred fifty [figure as heard] more IPKF men have returned home today. They were received at the Madras harbor by Brigadier M.K. Shukla and the chief of "INS Adier" Commodore Padma Shankar. The regiment left Kankesanthurai yesterday. These people belonged to the regiment of the 51st Engineers of the IPKF. They were engaged in technical operation, reconstruction, and rehabilitation work in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Latest reports from Colombo say in all 53 people were killed in separate incidents today. DPA [DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR] reports that they include policemen and JVP extremists. The latest killings came after 14 civilians were killed when security forces opened fire at a ceremony in a Sinhala village.

Sinhalese Rebels Blow Up Army Jeep; 6 Dead

BK2308065389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0645 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP)—Suspected anti-government Sinhalese rebels blew up an army jeep in southern Sri Lanka, killing six soldiers, officials said here Wednesday. Activists believed to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) set off a landmine under the vehicle in Katuwana village in Hambantota District late Tuesday, a military spokesman said. He said four soldiers were killed instantly while two died in hospital. A seventh soldier was seriously wounded.

The attack came hours after troops killed six suspected JVP men who were involved in an armed assault on a mobile patrol at Moraketiya village in the same district, the spokesman said.

"The patrol fired back at the subversives killing six of them and recovered four guns, ammunition and a landmine from them," the spokesman said.

He said two more subversives, an official term for JVP activists, were killed in similar circumstances in eastern Polonnaruwa District Tuesday.

The rebels killed two police constables escorting a cash transport vehicle in southern Ambalangoda town Tuesday and escaped with two guns and 800,000 rupees (23,000 dollars) in cash, the spokesman said. He said four more people were killed in JVP related violence across the island overnight Tuesday.

Meanwhile, troops and police are continuing cordon-and-search operations and have arrested nearly 1,000 suspects overnight, the spokesman said adding that most of them had been freed after screening. [passage omitted]

9 Policemen Killed; Overnight Toll Reaches 32

BK2308101289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 23 (AFP)—Gunmen assassinated a senior police officer here and killed eight policemen elsewhere in Sri Lanka Wednesday, boosting the overnight death toll in continuing political violence to 32, officials said.

A.C. Shabdeen, assistant superintendent of police, was gunned down in Colombo's busy commercial area of Maradana, an official spokesman said, adding that the victim was a former bodyguard of a ruling party politician.

A military spokesman said the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) was suspected of involvement. No one claimed responsiblity for the murder.

Suspected JVP men ambushed a police patrol in southern Meegahatenna village Wednesday, killing eight constables. Gunmen fired small arms at the police vehicle, the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Perumal Interviewed, Appeals for Tamil Rights

BK1908162689 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Aug 89 p 1

[Report on interview with V. Perumal, chief minister of Northeastern Provincial Council, by Papri Sri Raman]

[Text] "If both the governments (of India and Sri Lanka) go back to square one, they are compelling us to go back to square one, too". This was how Mr Varadaraja Perumal, Chief Minister of the North-Eastern Provincial Council of Sri Lanka, formulated the threat to revive the separate-Eelam demand in an interview to PATRIOT Wednesday.

Discussing the recent Indo-Sri Lankan talks on the eve of the proposed debate on it in the Lankan Parliament, he maintained it was not an absurd proposition. "When we fought for an Eelam, both the Indian and Sri Lankan Governments committed to us that they would provide the powers to provinces enjoyed by the Indian States".

Charging that the Sinhalas, irrespective of party affiliations, were historically united to suppress the island's ethnic minority he pleaded for legally arming 25,000 Tamils by their induction into the Sri Lankan armed forces.

Reacting to adverse press reports on his presence in New Delhi at the time of the recent Indo-Lankan talks Mr Perumal said, "our problems are not solved" and that there are now three million Indian Tamil refugees in Sri Lanka. Therefore, his presence here was not analogous to a hypothetical presence of Mr M Karunanidhi in Colombo during an Indo-Sri Lanka tete-e-tete there.

Following are excerpts from Mr Perumal's observations on a wide range of issues.

On the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal before or after the general election in India

In my view, even February (as the deadline) is unrealistic. If the main issues are not resolved the post-IPKF scenario will be very bad. I cannot predict how bad.

Then the chaos will continue. Various things, more serious things (than ethnic riots) will happen.

On the question of IPKF withdrawal before any devolution of power

That is what Sinhalas will say. That is the history of the Sinhalas for the last 40 to 50 years. It is not new for us because the Sinhalas are united to suppress the Tamils more or less. That is why we were for Eelam earlier.

So there is no question of ruling party or Opposition parties (among Sinhalas): The Sinhala leaders must accept the Tamil rights in Sri Lanka.

On devolution of power and the Eelam demand

We are not talking in an absurd manner. We say, when we fought for Eelam, both the Indian and Sri Lankan Governments committed to us that they would provide the same powers to the province as enjoyed by the Indian states. That is what we want.

If both the governments go back to square one, they are compelling us to go back to square one, too.

On the unhappiness of the East's Muslims with the merger with the North

The Muslims...are now with us. The Muslims' representative is mainly the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress, which is very cordial with us.

We have very frank discussions. We say we should be given the devolution (right) by which we should be able to devolve the powers to the Muslims to look after their matters.

The ball is in the court of the Sri Lankan Government.

On the Citizen's Volunteer Force (CVF)

It is the legally gazetted force (set up) by the Government of Sri Lanka. The IPKF is giving assistance to set it up because the IPKF is (the power to maintain) de facto the law-and-order situation in the North-Eastern Province. To replace their (IPKF's) own forces with the CVF, they are assisting, not raising the CVF.

It was agreed upon in the accord that ethnic proportions should be maintained in the armed forces and police and about 15,000 to 16,000 Tamils should be recruited into the armed forces and 5,000 into the police, about 25,000 Tamils should be legally armed.

Then only can their safety be ensured.

On the proposals given by India to Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne

These are not the real issues. We want that real issues should be discussed. That is devolution (of power).

Reacting to various reports on [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) chief] Prabhakaran's death

It is not the LTTE's own disinformation campaign. He is really dead. That is our information.

Reacting to reports on India's hand in [former Tamil United Liberation Front chief] Amrithalingam's killing

The Sri Lankan Government has the LTTE in Colombo with visors and arms. They did it (the killing) when they got the facility in Colombo.

Some people think that Colombo is in the midst of Jaffna; only these types will say so.

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